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January 30, 2004

The Spectator

"Older than the New York Times"

Volume XXXXIV Number 3

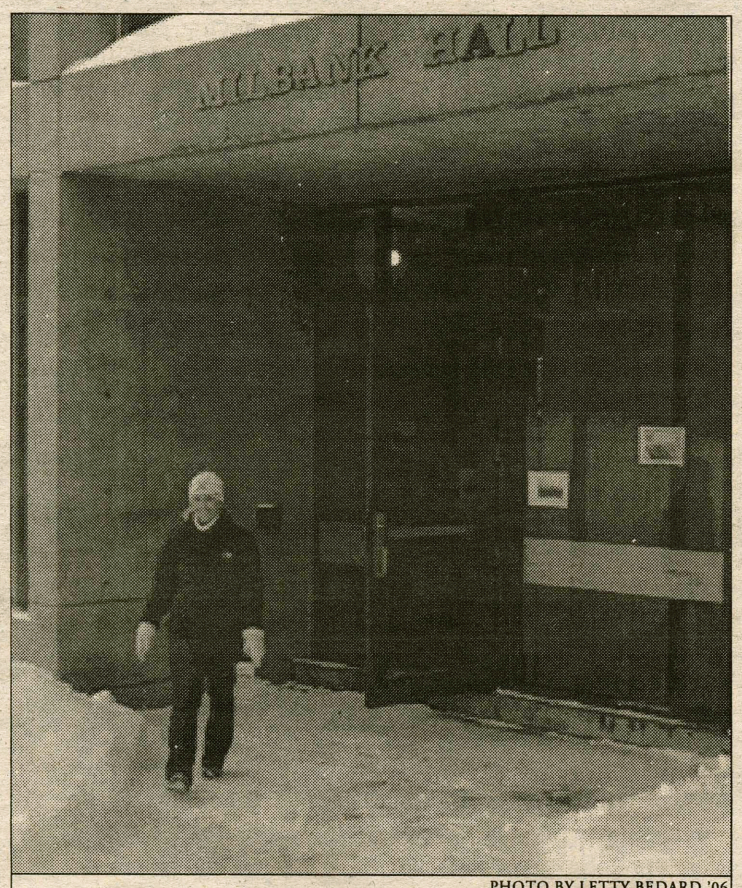

PHOTO BY LETTY BEDARD '06

Milbank Hall, an all-freshman dormitory? The current upper-classmen dorm is one building being considered in a potential plan to bring back all-freshman dorms.

Coalition solicits student opinion on new alcohol policy

Newly released statistics show Hamilton students drinking substantially more than their national collegiate peers. The Coalition on Alcohol and other groups are beginning to mobilize to address this growing concern. Inside, the 2-page spread entitled "Alcohol on the Hill" details these survey results and provides student insight into this pivotal issue. See pages 8-9.

MLK Service Day brings 175 volunteers into community

by Becky Ramsey '07
NEWS WRITER

As a continuation of the activities celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., members of the Hamilton community participated in a community service project last Saturday, Jan. 24.

About 175 students took part in projects at fourteen sites in, and around, the Utica area. Many of those helping were members of HAVOC, ASB groups, LaVanguardia, BSU, Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, the women's lacrosse team, USE, and Kappa Sigma Alpha.

HAVOC played a particularly large role in organizing the events and in selecting which organizations to help. Many of the places chosen have an ongoing relationship the service group. Senior Associate Dean of Students Nancy Thompson, College Chaplain Jeff McArn, Dean of Multicultural Affairsand organizer of the King dinner on January 19 Marc David, and HAVOC representative Haley Reimbold '06 all also helped to coordinate the event by finding organizations that needed volunteers.

Participants worked in various ways at the locations where they were stationed. These activities included painting, cleaning, tutoring children, playing games with those in need and even giving manicures.

Fifteen members of the Psi Upsilon fraternity, for instance, spent the day at the Boys and Girls Club of Utica.

"When we arrived at the site... a lot of painting and moving needed to be done," said Psi Upsilon President Andrew DeCastro.

The group split in half. One part painted rooms while the other cleaned and removed several years of accumulated trash from other parts of the facility.

By the end of the day, though they were tired, most had found a remarkable satisfaction in the work that they had been able to perform.

*see **Service Day**, page 6*

PHOTO BY NANCY THOMPSON

Approximately 175 students volunteered to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including the seven seen above.

ResLife considers bringing back all-first-year dorms

Milbank, Keehn among proposed halls

by Ian Mandel '06
NEWS EDITOR

The Hamilton College Department of Residential Life is currently considering changes to the housing system, including the possibility of reinstituting all-first-year residence halls. According to Director of Residential Life Jeff Landry, the discussion over all-first-year housing "will be a campus conversation," and will include groups of students, faculty and administrators. The Committee on Student Activities, which advises President Joan Hinde Stewart, will be examining the issue as well. The Committee is composed of faculty, students and two College trustees.

Although the idea of bringing back all-first-year housing is relatively new, it is being seriously considered for the 2004-2005 academic year.

"It [all-first-year housing] sparked interest late last semester and, as this semester begins, this has really gained interest. The difficulty, we all realize, is that if we wanted to pull this off for next year, we have to work quickly," Landry said. "If people are on board... and see the value, I think there is a good chance that this could happen. We're certainly up against the clock with

*see **ResLife**, page 4*

College website revamped to ease naviagation, eliminate confusion

by Kathleen McGrory '05
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With the help of members of the Class of 2007, Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Office of Communication and Development (C&D) have modernized the College's website. The site, which hit the web on Monday, maintains the "Are you ready?" theme, but boasts enhanced graphics and easier navigation.

"The former site was launched three years ago, and we designed it for the capabilities that existed at that time. Web technology has improved significantly since then," said Director of C&D Mike Debraggio on the need for updating the site.

Although the design is the same, many major changes have been made to make the page easier to navigate. Previously, there was a different set of navigation tabs for each of the three different method of accessing the site: the portal (my.hamilton.edu), the main external page (www.hamilton.edu), and the internal start page (onethehill.hamilton.edu). This system confused many visitors to the site. Visitors on my.hamilton.edu, for example, were not able to use the navigation links to get to the alumni page. Many complained.

Consequently, the College made navigating each of the three portals consistent. In addition, the web site no longer utilizes navigation tabs, but instead pull-down menus that facilitate easier

*see **Website**, page 4*

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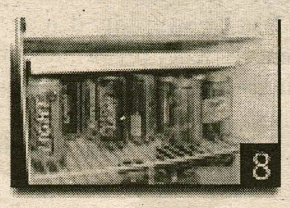


Kerry's Lead

Mens Basketball

Riverkeeper Exec. visits campus, warns of Indian Point danger

by Katie Seno '07
NEWS WRITER

The Kirkland Project kicked off its spring semester series on "Technology, Science, and Democracy: What's at Stake?" with a lecture by environmentalist Alex Matthiessen on Tuesday, January 27th. Having received a Masters of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Matthiessen has worked as a macroeconomics policy advisor for Indonesia and in the U.S. Department of the Interior. There, he received the Presidential Award from the White House for his work in reforming the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydropower licensing process.

Matthiessen is now the Executive Director of Riverkeeper, an environmental group originally founded in 1966 as The Hudson River Fisherman's Organization. Riverkeeper's mission is to protect the Hudson River and the watershed that feeds into it; to protect New York City drinking water; and to enforce environmental laws by suing polluters and encouraging citizen action through a telephone hotline and neighborhood watchdogs.

In this manner, Riverkeeper has cracked down on such major corporations as General Electric, Penn Central, and Con Edison for polluting the Hudson River, once notorious for its filthiness. Matthiessen calls the cleanup of the Hudson River "the model of grassroots action." Indeed, the majority of the river is now clean enough for swimming.

The focus of Matthiessen's lecture was Riverkeeper's most massive, difficult project yet: to shutdown the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, New York, and to raise awareness of potential dangers to the lower Hudson Valley and the millions of residents of New York City. His organization's ultimate goal is to see the complete shutdown of Indian Point's two nuclear reactors. Until this goal is achieved, Riverkeeper is working to bolster what he believes is poor security at the plant, and to protect spent fuel that is stored in easily penetrable steel and concrete buildings.

According to Matthiessen, Indian Point has had considerable difficulty with its general operations. In the last 18 months, there have been nine emergency outages that warranted the shutdown of the entire 975-acre facility. The national average is only one outage per year.

Matthiessen argued that Indian Point also has very low security. He cited a survey of all Indian Point security guards in which only 19% replied that they were confident in their physical ability to effectively repel even a conventional ground attack on the facility.

Matthiessen also attacked the plant's impractical emergency plan, claiming that it does not take into account the very high population density of the area, which would result in impossible road congestion in the case of an evacuation. He claimed the evacuation plan also completely relies on the willingness of rescue workers to stay inside a nuclear meltdown zone for a prolonged period of time to transport people by bus to shelters 11 miles away from the facility, another fact Matthiessen finds troubling. He claimed that the peak-fatality zone has a radius of some 17.5 miles, measured by the country's leading expert on nuclear accidents.

Additionally, in his January 29, 2002, State of the Union address, President George W. Bush revealed that the Al-Qaeda was in possession of detailed diagrams of American nuclear power plants. Matthiessen explained that because the plant is in the heart of the most densely-populated metropolitan area of the United States, with its two nuclear reactors and 1500 tons of radioactive waste, Indian Point is an ideal target for terrorism.

The effects of the meltdown of only one reactor would still be felt all over a 500-mile radius, which includes Clinton, NY. There would be an instant-mortality rate of about 100,000, not including the resulting cancer and other long-term health effects of exposure to radioactive materials.

The water supply of a 2,000 sq. ft. area would also be de-

*see **Riverkeeper**, page 6*

Juliano dead at 60

by Lindsay Sorin '07
NEWS WRITER

Frank Juliano, a member of the Howard Diner staff, passed away on December 17, 2003. Although you may not recognize him by name, almost every student, faculty or staff member who has eaten lunch at the diner would be sure to recognize him. He had worked hard behind the counter of the Howard Diner, creating delicious specialty sandwiches, for five years. Juliano was sixty years old when he passed on. Although the cause of death is still unknown, Frank Juliano had been suffering from diabetes.

For Juliano, working at Hamilton may have been his post-retirement job, but it was not one that he took lightly. He often worked the morning and afternoon shifts, noting that he was always excited to get up to go to work and talk to the students here at Hamilton. He was a dedicated worker who also took his job very seriously, making sure that the students and faculty could enjoy a delicious, hot sandwich in a short amount of time. Frank most enjoyed having conversations with students on the line at the Diner, often talking about various interests, hobbies and events taking place on campus. They would often converse about the summer camp.

His career, however, was spent in the Quality Control Department for Chicago Pneumatic in Utica, until he retired in 1996. He and his wife, Teresa, also owned and operated Tessie's Greenhouses on Southside Drive in Frankfort, the town in which he was also raised.

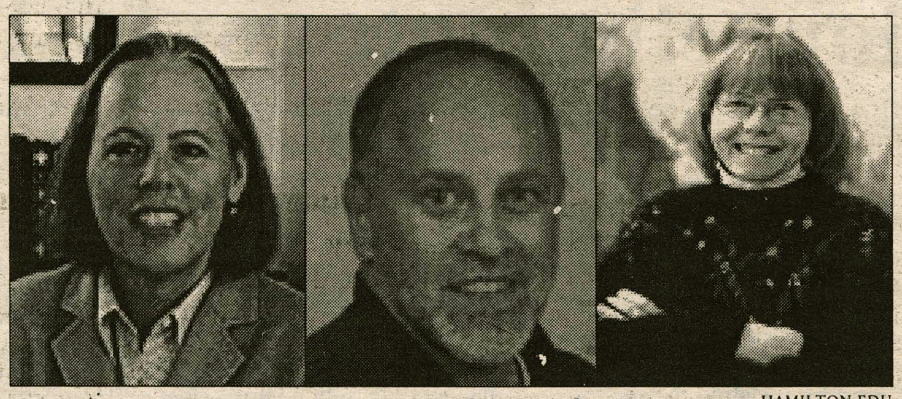
Juliano was a Communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Utica, as well as a member of St. Francis Di Paolo Society.

Juliano was an enthusiastic employee, as well as he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He leaves behind a wife, three daughters and seven grandchildren. Not only will he be missed by his family, but by the Hamilton community as well.

Stewart appoints three professors to endowed chairs

by Greta Rosenberger '07
NEWS WRITER

Hamilton College President Joan Hinde Stewart announced in mid-January that three professors have been appointed to endowed chairs. Stewart, acting with Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty David Paris, has bestowed this honor upon Professors Barbara Tewksbury, Stuart Hirshfield, and Vivyan Adair. An endowed chair is a position created by friends of the College in order to help support and honor professors who have distinguished themselves through exceptional work.



HAMILTON.EDU

Professors Vivyan Adair, Stuart Hirshfield and Barbara Tewksbury were appointed to endowed chairs in mid-January.

Tewksbury, the Stephen Harper Kirner Professor of Geology, was appointed to the William R. Kenan Chair of Geology for a term of three years. Tewksbury joined the Hamilton College faculty in 1978. She has been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in teaching, including the 2003 Neil Miner Award, given by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers at this year's Geological Society of America annual meeting.

In her announcement to the College, Stewart said of Tewksbury: "She has been a leader in the scholarship of pedagogy: her introductory course on Geology and Development in modern Africa was one of four recognized nationally...Her work powerfully demonstrates excellence in the integration of scholarship and teaching."

*see **Endowed Chairs**, page 4*

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Fig 1: Deer Tick

YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE SOMETHING THIS DANGEROUS ON YOUR BODY. OR WOULD YOU?

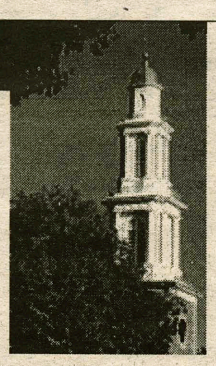
Fig 2: Melanoma

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. In fact, one person an hour in the U.S. dies from the disease. Fortunately melanoma can be completely cured if it's caught early enough. So examine your skin regularly. If you find a blemish larger than a pencil eraser, multi-colored, asymmetrical or irregular in the edges, you may have melanoma and should see your dermatologist. For more information on melanoma, call 1-888-462-DERM or visit www.aad.org.

AAD
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

sorry... I don't need any news writers. But, you can always write for Features!!

IVORY TOWERS



THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Report: Colleges Unprepared for Latino Students

(AP) — With Hispanics graduating from high school in numbers that will keep increasing for years, the head of a higher education group that released a new report on the trend says colleges need to step up efforts to accommodate the nation's largest minority.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education projects that Hispanics will account for 21 percent of the country's public high school graduates in 2008, up from 17 percent in 2002.

The commission found that nearly 5 million Hispanics were enrolled in the country's public elementary and high schools in 1993-94. And by the 2007-08 school year, it projects that Latino public school enrollment will be about 9 million.

"In general, colleges are still not prepared," said David Longanecker, executive director of the interstate commission. Its report, "Knocking at the College Door," is released every five years and is used by local school districts, states and higher education to track enrollment trends.

"We know there is a relationship between race and income and academic preparedness," Longanecker said. "But we don't have the support services in place to enhance the success that we need."

Using data compiled from the nation's leading test-makers, the U.S. census and other sources, the WICHE study projects a significant regional shift in the school-age population to the South and West that follows general population trends.

College Freshman Show Increased Interest in Political Activity

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For the first time in about 30 years, college freshmen are becoming more interested in politics, according to a report by an educational institute released Monday.

About 34 percent of students surveyed in fall 2003 said following politics is important, compared to 28.1 percent in 2000, a record low, according to the 38th annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jessica Hopkins, president of Pennsylvania State University College Democrats, said two factors come to mind in relation to the increase.

"The first is that we are coming into a presidential election year, and we always see more interest in election years. The second, being that this is the highest rise in 30 years, it's interesting because the Vietnam war was going on at that time," Hopkins said.

She said the Iraq conflict is not necessarily comparable to Vietnam, but it causes division in politics and causes people to look at the issues.

The survey's data was based on responses of 276,449 students at 413 U.S. baccalaureate colleges and universities.

Students were surveyed upon entering school in the fall, and their responses were based on their behaviors and ideologies from the previous year, which in most cases was their senior year in high school.

Wrestlers Threaten to Sue Over Eliminated Program

(U-WIRE) BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Even former wrestlers don't go down without a fight.

A group of Binghamton University alumni is considering using legal action against the University if it continues with its plans to cancel the varsity wrestling program at the end of this season.

In a press release, President Lois B. DeFleur stated that an attorney representing the group "informed us that, should we refuse to reinstate the wrestling program, the group would begin litigation and a negative public relations campaign aimed at attacking not only our decision, but also the reputation of the University and its staff."

WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Head of BBC Resigns Over Weapons Report

LONDON (AP) — The head of the British Broadcasting Corp. resigned Thursday, the second top official to step down after a judicial inquiry harshly criticized the broadcaster's journalistic standards, and the network apologized "for our errors."

But Greg Dyke's resignation prompted hundreds of BBC employees to walk out of the 81-year-old corporation's two main London offices and demonstrate on the street.

"My main concern is that with the climbing down, the news gatherers will stop their task of questioning the government and holding it to account," said Richard Curtis, 35, an engineer at BBC's Radio 4.

One local radio station, BBC Somerset Sound, went off air for a minute in protest at the resignation and what staff called the "abject" apology from the BBC.

On Wednesday, Judge Lord Hutton criticized the BBC for an "unfounded" report it broadcast last year accusing the government of "sexing up" a prewar dossier about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction with information it knew was wrong.

Gavyn Davies, the chairman of the BBC's board of governors, resigned hours after Hutton's decision - the first time the top executive at the broadcaster has left in a dispute over reporting.

The BBC governors also appeared to bow to pressure from Prime Minister Tony Blair's office, issuing an apology after an emergency meeting to discuss the findings of the Hutton inquiry.

Pakistan Bans Anti-al-Qaida Operations

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan will not allow American troops to use its soil for a planned "spring offensive" against Taliban or al-Qaida fugitives, officials said Thursday.

Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema, the chief of the National Crisis Management Cell coordinating with U.S. officials in the war against terrorism, said Pakistani policies do not allow American troops to operate inside the country.

U.S. officials in Washington said Wednesday the Defense Department was planning a new offensive amid concern that operations in Afghanistan are not as effective in breaking up terrorist networks as they had hoped. One official hinted that troops might extend operations to the Pakistani side of the Afghan border.

Cheema said he had not heard of the plan. U.S. forces used Pakistani bases and airspace during the campaign that led to the late 2001 ouster of the hard-line Taliban from power in Afghanistan, but Pakistan insisted it only provided logistic support.

"As a matter of fact they (the United States) have not contacted us for this purpose," he told The Associated Press.

Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants are believed to be hiding in the rugged border regions - possibly inside Pakistan. Also, the U.S.-backed Afghan government complains that resurgent Taliban rebels are operating from Pakistani territory and launching cross-border assaults.

Israeli, Hezbollah Finish Prisoner Swap

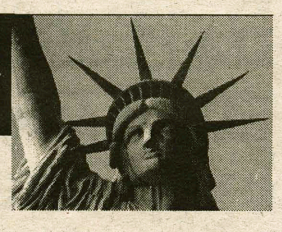
BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A long-awaited prisoner swap between Israel and the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah on Thursday freed more than 420 Palestinians and other Arabs, two Lebanese militia leaders and an Israeli businessman.

Tens of thousands of Hezbollah supporters lined an airport road in Beirut, waving flags to welcome home the former prisoners - including Shiite cleric Abdel Karim Obeid and Lebanese guerrilla leader Mustafa Dirani.

Obeid was the first to disembark the plane. Sporting a long beard and white Shiite Muslim turban, he walked steadily toward a group of government officials. Dirani followed him.

Minutes earlier, an Israeli jet landed in Tel Aviv bringing home businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum and the bodies of three soldiers killed on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

NATIONAL NEWS



Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Rivals Hope to Curb Kerry's Momentum

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Kerry will be hard to beat in Tuesday's elections, but other Democratic presidential hopefuls can curb his momentum if they play to their strengths and his weaknesses, in the right places.

While he is running strong everywhere, the four-term Massachusetts senator is not unstoppable anywhere, said Democratic strategists and political experts in the seven states at stake.

Kerry's victories in Iowa and New Hampshire gave him instant credibility with voters who crave a winning rival to President Bush. Even in states that under normal circumstances would run cool to a Massachusetts liberal, Kerry suddenly looks presidential, experts said Thursday.

"People who want a winner against Bush naturally gravitate to the guys who has won something," said Robert Kweit, political science professor at the University of North Dakota. His state has 14 pledged delegates up for grabs, fewest of Tuesday's states.

In Oklahoma, where 40 delegates are at stake, Kerry is in a four-way fight with rivals whose records are a more comfortable fit with the state's conservative Democrats. Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards are matching Kerry ad-for-ad on Oklahoma television. The fourth, Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, can afford just a few ads.

Key Testimony Delayed in Stewart Trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge placed a roadblock in the government's case against Martha Stewart on Thursday, delaying the testimony of its star witness and chastising prosecutors for withholding information that might undermine the witness' credibility.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum came moments before Douglas Faneuil, the former brokerage assistant who handled the stock sale at the center of the trial, was to take the stand.

While not crippling to the government, the ruling disrupts the prosecution and provides the defense with ammunition in its attempt to discredit the young assistant. Lead prosecutor Karen Patton Seymour told the judge the decision would hamper the government's ability to "provide the foundation" for its case.

AP

Faneuil is expected to testify that he gave Stewart a secret tip from her stockbroker that led the home decorating and style maven to sell nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems stock just before it plummeted on a negative report about its most important drug.

But late Wednesday night, prosecutors provided defense lawyers with a document that raises doubts about whether the stockbroker ordered that the tip be passed on - and whether Faneuil himself recalls the episode clearly.

Military Frees 3 Teens From Guantanamo Bay

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military on Thursday released three teenage boys - believed to be between the ages of 13 and 15 - who had been accused of supporting the Taliban and had been held at the prison for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Pentagon announced.

The boys were sent back to their home country - which was not identified, the Pentagon said, saying it was determined that they no longer posed a threat to the United States. They have no further value as interrogation subjects and are not going to be tried by the U.S. government for any crimes, the military said.

They were the youngest prisoners at the Guantanamo base, which has held hundreds of suspected al-Qaida and Taliban fighters since the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

ResLife to engage in "campus discussion" over first-year housing

*from **ResLife**, page 1*

the lottery coming."

According to Landry, a variety of building combinations are being considered on both the north and south sides of campus. Residence Halls being considered include Dunham, North and South on the north side, and Babbitt, Milbank, Major, Minor, McIntosh, Root and Keehn on the south side of campus.

Landry stated that 500 beds are needed to house the freshman class, far more than could ever fit in any one Hamilton residence hall. He stated that the College is looking for the "best combination possible using the fewest buildings."

Dunham, the largest residence hall on campus, can accommodate 249 students. It has been utilized as an all-first-year residence hall in the past; however, at that point in time, incoming classes were smaller and easily fit in Dunham alone.

All of the residence halls being considered have community bathrooms, a quality that Landry finds vital. "Oddly enough, common bathrooms are a great way of building community," he said. Landry also specified buildings with large lounge spaces as ideal for all-first-year buildings.

Landry believes that there are multiple benefits to housing first-years together. "There's a great benefit of having them together through orientation," Landry said. "Going through orientation and living together would build community within the first-year class."

Landry believes a crucial part of the community-building process would be close involvement by the faculty. If the plan were to go into effect, he would like to see professors meeting the first-years, as well as having meals and discussions with them.

It is also believed that an all-freshman residence hall would make communication easier. "You can get at them and direct programming and direct your resources right at them," Landry said.

Landry did not feel that physically separating first-years from upperclassmen would isolate the group.

"A lot of people feel that Hamilton is a small enough community that people mingle and mix anyway," Landry said. "We wouldn't be segregating first-years from upper class students. That interaction [between the classes] will exist no matter what."

One group that will be examining the possibility of first-year housing is the Residence Hall Council (RHC), an organization open to all students that acts as a liaison between Residential Life and the student body.

"We've been told about the positives and the benefits of first-year housing, but it was all talked about in theory," said RHC President Adam Lalor '04.

Lalor stated that the RHC is committed to standing by both the student body and by Residential Life, and they will be gauging student opinion before taking a firm stance.

Area Coordinator and RHC Advisor Travis Hill stated that the RHC has not yet obtained or examined enough information on the potential change to definitely say how the organization will go about measuring student opinion.

"They [the RHC] play an advisory role; they're a voice for students in Residential Life decisions and we take that into consideration when making decisions," Hill said.

If the College implements the suggested plan next year, action must be taken within the next month, Landry said.

While the plan to open an all-first-year residence hall is still in a rudimentary stage, the old Psi Upsilon House will almost certainly be housing students next fall.

"Psi U will be online as of hopefully June, so they can get set for late August," Landry said.

Psi U will house fifty-four students in singles and doubles, each with its own bathroom. The building will be equipped with air conditioning and an elevator as well.

Landry was unsure of how the rooms in Psi U will be chosen in the upcoming housing lottery. "I don't think there will be pulls, but I'm not sure. At this point, I don't think so," he said.

In addition to the plan for all-first-year residence halls, ResLife is also considering altering the way in which students are "pulled in." Some in the College community have expressed concern that younger students are being pulled in to rooms by upper-classmen, consequently bypassing some older students. Landry discussed several options being considered to avoid this in the future.

"We had talked about averaging lottery numbers if you pull in a group," Landry said.

Another option would be implementing a point system, in which students earn points for certain campus involvement and lose points for disciplinary reasons. Landry cautioned, however, that these suggestions are just theories right now and that he does not anticipate any sweeping changes in this area for the upcoming housing lottery.

"I think if anything happens for this coming lottery, it might be the averaging of lottery numbers, but I think that would be an outside chance as well," Landry said.

C&D redesigns website with input from Class of 2007

*from **Website**, page 1*

navigation.

Also, in addition to featuring students, the new site will also feature institutional themes and points of emphasis. At present, there is a focus on the new science center on the home page. The College hopes to change that within the month to focus on writing and the nationally acclaimed Nesbitt-Johnston Writing Center.

Minor changes abound. At the request of visitors who had suggested that the main font was too small, each user now has the ability to change the size of the font. Additionally, the one-sentence statement about the College was changed to better reflect the objectives of the strategic plan. The statement: "Hamilton is a vibrant intellectual community that demands creativity, self-reliance and character" has been replaced with "Hamilton, a liberal arts college with an emphasis on individualized instruction and independent research, is a national leader in teaching effective writing and persuasive speaking."

The new concepts were not entirely the idea of ITS and C&D. Through focus groups and an online survey, members of the Class of 2007 played an integral role in the development of the new site.

"Those of us who worked most closely on the project realized the obvious: we are not 17-year-olds looking for a college," said Debraggio. "We've all gone through the process, but for some of us it's been quite a few years. The Class of 2007 provided us the critical viewpoint we needed to understand what appeals to 17 and 18-year-olds today."

According to Debraggio, around 70 percent of freshmen surveyed reported that they liked to mouse-over the silhouettes and read the stories of Hamilton students. Many also noted that Hamilton's unique web site made the College stand out among all of the schools to which they were applying. Consequently, the decision was made to update the site in lieu of revamping it completely.

"Even though we went into this project thinking we would completely overhaul our home page concept, we opted instead for a 'modernization.' Students told us the concept was effective and statistics showed it was still attracting significant readership," described Debraggio.

With regards to the students featured on the homepage, change is in store. The College has already dropped two of its oldest sets of six and is in the process of adding a new set. If all goes according to plans, the newcomers will be online this February. Hamilton hopes to replace another existing set around April.

The webmaster will not, however, be looking to remove all of the students who have graduated from the site. The mix of current students and alumi, Debraggio noted, is intentional.

Almost a week after the new site was put on the web, students are expressing mixed reactions. "The colors are much better; they looked really poor on the old site. It also seems to be much more functional," noted Aram Kudurshian '06, an ITS employee. "There still needs to be some reorganization, though. Certain areas have too much information and its not easy to find what you are looking for. For example, on the ITS section there are too many links. If there was some clarification it would be better."

Truong Nguyen '06 had some different ideas about the new site.

"The look of the site has improved a bit. The old look didn't attract me to look at sports, events or anything like that. Now I look at them everyday," said Nguyen, who helped design the Asian Cultural Society web site. "I think prospective students will be more enticed into looking at Hamilton as a college because it appears to draw you in as you look at its interface," he added.

Debraggio also has high hopes for the new version of the Hamilton web site. "I hope our Web site conveys a college focused on the individual student, where there are more opportunities, both academic and extracurricular, than one can imagine, and where there's a focus on writing, speaking, undergraduate research, close student-faculty interaction, diversity and student responsibility," he said.

New endowed chairs among most acclaimed faculty

*from **Endowed Chairs**, page 2*

Late last year, Tewksbury was named president of the American Geological Institute, a nonprofit organization that represents scientists over 100,000 scientists in related fields.

"I am deeply honored by the Kenan Chair, and the appointment means an enormous amount to me," Tewksbury said.

Adair, an assistant professor of women's studies, was appointed to the Elihu Root Peace Fund Chair, a position created in 1909 by Andrew Carnegie in honor of Elihu Root, one of Hamilton's most famous alumni. Adair will hold the Chair for five years. Adair came to Hamilton in 1998 after receiving her doctorate from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Stewart called Adair "an inspiring teacher and nationally recognized scholar and program developer."

Adair is the founder of the ACCESS program, an initiative that provides low-income parents an introduction to liberal arts education, as well as long term educational, social service, employment and family services support.

Adair's work has been published in journals such as the *Harvard Educational Review* and *Signs*. Additionally, she has co-edited *Reclaiming Class: Women, Poverty, and the Promise of Higher Education in America*.

Hirshfield now holds the Stephen Harper Kirner Chair of Computer Science, a rotating, five-year appointment that honors a faculty member in the sciences.

Hirshfield is the co-author of a very popular computer science text, *The Analytical Engine: An Introduction to Computer Science Using the Internet*.

Stewart characterized Hirshfield as "one of Hamilton's most popular teachers, widely known for a combination of humor and rigor."

"I was equally shocked and thrilled when I heard about this recognition. It's an honor for me as well as for my department, and, so, I'm grateful on many levels. I have always felt fortunate to be at Hamilton, and remain to this day somewhat in awe of my colleagues and the students here. Truthfully, I don't know what the criteria are for these positions, but if appreciating Hamilton is one of them, then I suppose I qualify," Hirshfield said.

In concluding her memo to the College community, Stewart stated: "I have been deeply impressed with the dedication and achievements of our faculty, and I am pleased to be able to bestow these honors on such deserving colleagues. I hope that you will join me in congratulating Barb, Vivyan, and Stuart."

Editorial
The Spectator

The Spectator
"Wider than the New York Times"

Addressing alcohol...

In this week's issue of *The Spectator*, you'll notice a new section devoted entirely to alcohol issues at Hamilton. This is the first installment of our new special projects section, our attempt to tackle the biggest issues facing the college community. We present these reports not in a traditional journalistic format, but rather as a fusion of news, opinion and human interest. We view the section as a place for accurate and researched news reporting and features to come together in hopes of covering important topics more thoroughly.

Concerns regarding students' consumption of alcohol have long been on the College's agenda, but recently came into the spotlight with the reformation of the President's Coalition on Alcohol. As a result, the Editorial Board of *The Spectator* decided to devote the inaugural edition of our special projects section to this relevant, albeit controversial, subject.

We open "Alcohol on the Hill" with a lengthy article that reports a number of statistics that were released to members of the InterSociety Council and Student Assembly earlier this week. At the meeting, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Dr. Robert Kazin presented the results of a survey on alcohol consumption. In this survey, administered in the spring of 2003, Hamilton compared unfavorably to many of the national collegiate averages.

The above-mentioned statistics were only released to select members of the campus community. Consequently, some members of the Alcohol Coalition objected to their publication. Nevertheless, as we believe that all students have the right to know the whole story, we felt it was necessary to run these statistics. With regards to the alcohol policy, we are all guilty of operating under false assumptions and jumping to conclusions.

If we don't have a clear understanding of the problem, we won't know how to fix it.

We hope this section on alcohol issues, and other future sections will serve as a reference point for students and faculty, and inspire campus dialogue.

write for the Spec

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Matthiessen discusses dangers of nuclear power

from ***Riverkeepr****, page 2*

stroyed. Matthiessen claimed the economy would inevitably be devastated as well, with an estimated $500 billion in damage (compared to the $84 billion total-damage expense of the September 11, 2001, disaster).

According to Matthiessen, there is no argument for keeping the Indian Point facility open. He claims that nuclear power is the most expensive energy source, and much of the cost of building facilities, mining uranium, enriching the soil, and disposing of the fuel is subsidized by the government through tax dollars.

The insurance industry, he pointed out, after weighing the probability vs. the consequences in their risk analysis, has refused to insure nuclear power generating facilities. Even if any insurance company were to take one on, it is doubtful if any could afford the estimated cap of $9.4 billion dollars.

Undeniably, the Indian Point facility supplies 2,000 megawatts of power, roughly 16-20% of the demand of the greater metropolitan area of New York City; however, this can easily be replaced by either the nine new gas-fire plants in the area that are approved for construction (supplying an estimated 4,000 watts), or the use of a 2,300 watt transmission line, a much safer, more reliable, and cheaper option, according to Matthiessen.

Matthiessen went on to describe the ongoing battle with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), stating his opinion that the NRC does only the bare minimum to avoid a summons before the Federal Appeals court and "sees its first responsibility as protecting the nuclear industry," noting the energy industry's close ties with the government, and with the "the Bush dynasty" in particular. In what Matthiessen considers a flagrant disregard for public safety, the NRC was primarily concerned with protecting its own business interests.

He cited the example that the lax inspections of the Davis-Besse Plant in Oak Harbor, Ohio, very nearly resulted in a full-scale nuclear meltdown. Luckily, in January 2003, plant workers discovered that boric acid had corroded 70 lbs of steel in the lid of the nuclear reactor dome, with a mere 3/4 inches left.

Although the NRC is considering slightly raising the standard, the current safety requirements require plants to be prepared to handle an attack by 3 people and 1 insider, with no consideration to attacks by plane or boat.

Furthermore, Matthiessen claimed that many fish are killed each year because the plant draws out 2.3 billion gallons of water each day out of the river to cool its toxic waste storage pools, and then re-deposits the water back in the river, up to 30 degrees warmer than its original temperature.

Matthiessen closed his lecture by encouraging students to write to New York State Governor George Pataki and Senators Charles Schumer and Hilary Clinton in protest. A relevant, controversial topic in a world that has an ever-increasing reliance on technology and therefore demand for energy, the Indian Point debate relates very directly to Hamilton College, because of our proximity to Indian Point and other nuclear power generating facilities on Lake Ontario. These plants generate the power that we use on this campus, producing radioactive waste that is toxic to all life forms and will remain toxic for thousands of years with no safe way to dispose of it, according to Professor Bill Pfitsch, chair of the environmental studies department.

MLK Service Day draws diverse group of students

from ***Service Day****, page 1*

"We felt good because they knew that our help was directly correlated to the well being of children who are less fortunate than us. Not only did we did provided a valuable service, but this gave our fraternity members a chance to bond and spend some quality time together," said DeCastro.

Psi Upsilon sought out the opportunity to perform community service in part to show the community that Greek society members at Hamilton are committed to the wellbeing of the College's neighbors. Through participation in the project, they were also able to find an institution, the Boys and Girls Club, which they enjoyed being with and plan to continue helping in the future.

This reaction was exactly what organizers were hoping for.

"The need is great in this community, and our gifts and talents are many," said Thompson. "This service day is a reminder that we can make a difference and that we are, in fact, called to do so."

In addition to appreciating the direct results of work done in the community, David was also pleased with the honor the project paid to King's legacy.

"Dr. King would have been proud that his legacy has been upheld. King was a man that dedicated his life to the well being of others," he said.

David also hopes that those who participated will continue their participation in community service, either by joining a permanent organization or through personal committment.

"We only mirrored [King's] legacy for one day. And although [he] would have been happy with our efforts, I believe that many more efforts can be made through community service, and we shouldn't get complacent with giving back to the community for only one day," David said.

The service day has grown in participation since its inception six years ago by then Assistant Dean of Students Karen Green; however, the mission of giving back has remained the same.

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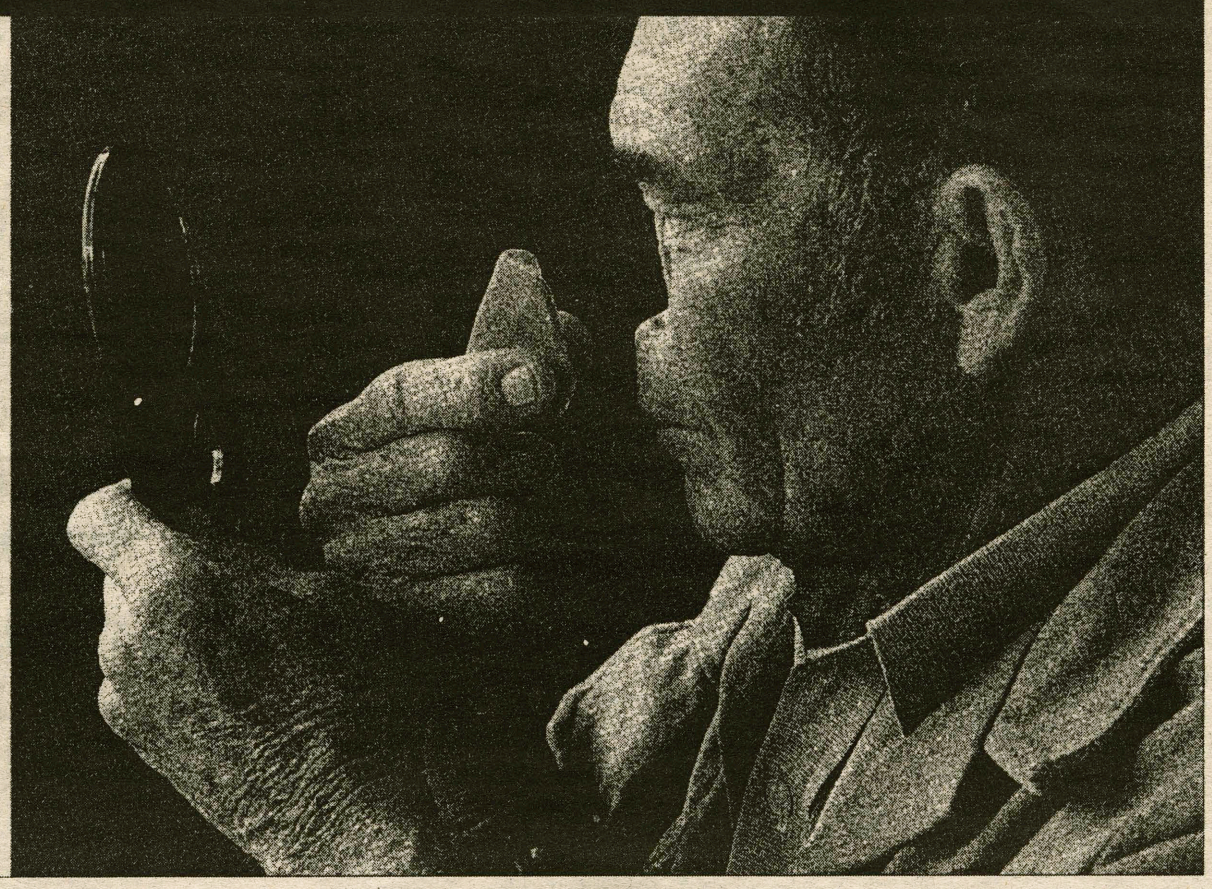

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Alcohol on the Hill

Kazin announces results of Hamilton survey on alcohol

Reconstituted Alcohol Coalition seeks solutions

by Daniel A. Bleeker '06
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

The Hamilton College Alcohol Coalition met with members of the Intersociety Council and the Student Assembly on Monday, January 26 to hear a presentation of statistics regarding drinking at Hamilton College. According to this presentation, Hamilton men consume 56% more alcohol than the national average. Hamilton women consume 107% more. In addition, Hamilton students suffer much greater negative consequences related to alcohol than the nation's average college student.

> **"We've been throwing zillions of things around, and we've been talking about all of them. Hard alcohol is on the list, but the list is long. More than anything else, we want to hear from students."**
> - Dr. Robert Kazin, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Hamilton and member of the Alcohol Coalition

Dr. Robert Kazin, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Hamilton, lead the presentation, and directed a discussion of Hamilton's alcohol policy following his talk. Kazin began his address by describing the manner in which the Hamilton statistics were obtained. In the spring of 2003, 400 Hamilton students, fifty of each gender from each class, were randomly selected by the Registrar and given surveys to fill out and return to their RA's. As an incentive, these students were entered into a drawing for $100. This combination of randomization and personalization yielded a response rate of greater than 60%. The data was then analyzed and compared to that of the Core survey, a national alcohol survey distributed to over 50,000 students at over 130 colleges and universities nationwide.

First, Hamilton students were asked how they think drinking on the Hill compares to average rates of drinking across the country. 11.8% of students said they thought Hamilton drinking was less than the national average, 68.1% thought it was about the same, and only 20.2% felt that Hamilton's rate of drinking was higher than the national average. Of the twenty-five negative effects associated with alcohol measured by the study, Hamilton suffered less than the national average only once, and similar to the national average only five times. All of the other effects measured found Hamilton suffering significantly more than the national average.

Amongst these statistics is the percentage of Hamilton students who have suffered a "black out" or memory loss from drinking, one of the first signs of alcoholism. The national average is 28%, at Hamilton it is 54%. The national average for students who have gotten sick or vomited from drinking, an early sign of alcohol poisoning, is 49%. At Hamilton it is 68%.

Also of extreme concern to the Administration are the statistics related to sexual violence and assault on campus. Nationally, 5.8% of respondents claimed to have experienced unwanted sexual touching by someone under the influence of alcohol. At Hamilton, that number was nearly double, 11.8%. Nationally, 3.5% of subjects reported having unwanted sexual intercourse with someone under the influence. At Hamilton, that figure was 8.8%

In addition to negative effects, the survey gathered information about the prevalence of drinking on the Hill. Nationally, 88% of college students reported having had a drink in their lifetimes. At Hamilton, that figure was 95%. Similarly, 22% of national college students reported having had 3 or more drinks in the last seven days. At Hamilton, that number was 46%.

When asked what he hoped students would take away from these statistics, Dr. Kazin responded, "Most students, 80%, think that our drinking is typical. What I want people to understand is that it is not. If students realize this, than maybe we can do something about it."

Not everyone on campus is ready to accept the validity of Kazin's numbers. Many of the students present at Monday's meeting questioned the national statistic's worth, saying that it was unfair to compare Hamilton, a small liberal arts college in an isolated, rural environment, to larger and more integrated schools across the country.

When questioned on this subject, Kazin admitted that the comparison was not perfect. "First, the criticism is valid," Kazin said, "but those are the only numbers we've got. Second, if we did find a school with data like ours, how would that make us feel? We have to look at Hamilton's data on its own, and decide what we want to do about it."

An organization that seeks to do exactly that is Hamilton's newly reconstituted Alcohol Coalition, an organization of administrators, professors and students charged with delivering a report on Hamilton's alcohol use and policy to President Stewart by March 15.

Founded several years ago, the Alcohol Coalition previously focused on running a social norms campaign to correct students' misconceptions about the amount of alcohol consumed on campus. These campaigns, such as 2/3=1/4, were only nominally successful, and last semester Stewart asked the Coalition to come up with a broader plan to address alcohol at Hamilton.

According to Senior Associate Dean of Students and Chair of the Alcohol Coalition Nancy Thompson, interviewed for this article via email, "the Coalition is interested in working closely with the campus community as a whole (students, faculty and staff) to find ways to reduce the negative effects of alcohol and other drug use on campus and in the local community."

Elizabeth Dolan '05, president of the Student Assembly and member of the Alcohol Coalition, closely echoed this sentiment. "Our major goal is to draw up a recommendation that accurately reflects the campus mentality," she said. "We're not trying to eliminate alcohol, but to achieve something resembling the norm. That which is acceptable to society should be acceptable to the administration."

How exactly those norms would be achieved has yet to be determined. Some students fear that a ban on hard alcohol may be on the table. According to Thompson, however, "Nothing has been decided at this point. The Coalition is presently gathering information and ideas from many sources, with students being key players in this process."

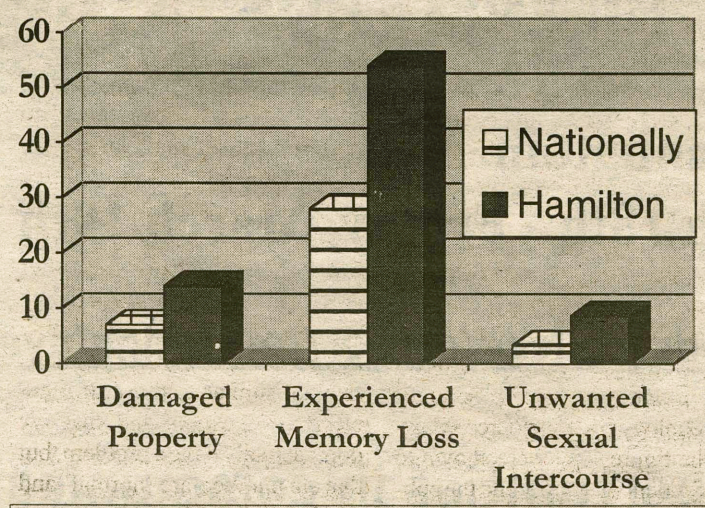
Kazin concurs. "We've been throwing zillions of things around, and we've been talking about all of them. Hard alcohol is on the list, but the list is long. More than anything else., we want to hear from students."

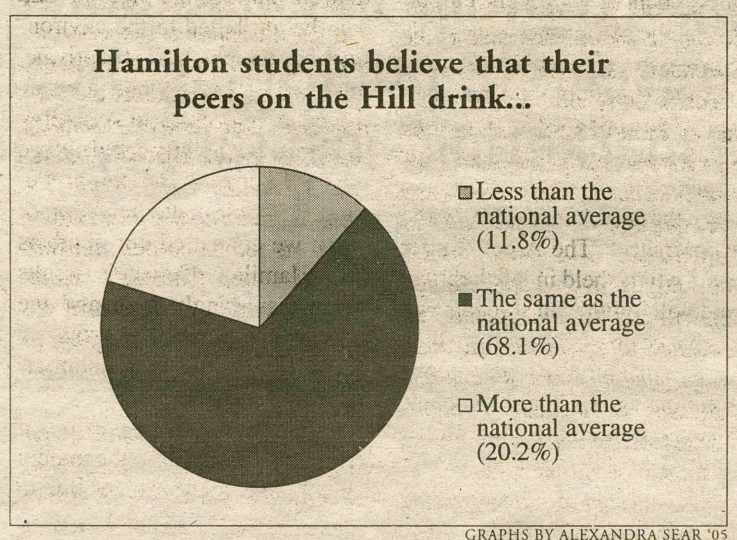
Most importantly, the Coalition urges students to make their opinions heard. "We will be gathering student opinions and ideas in a number of ways-via email, tables in Beinecke and public meetings. The Adler Conference on February 27 will be focused on alcohol issues and will be a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to voice opinions," Thompson said.

"Nothing is more thrilling than to able to engage a very large element in the student body in a large issue," Dolan added. "It's a privilege. People are inspired to evoke positive change. We challenge the student body to follow through."

PHOTO BY LETTY ZED BEDARD '06

Is this the average fridge at Hamilton?




Hamilton students believe that their peers on the Hill drink...
Less than the national average (11.8%)
The same as the national average (68.1%)
More than the national average (20.2%)

GRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA SEAR '05

Percentage of national college students who have gotten into a fight while intoxicated- 29%

Percentage of Hamilton students who have gotten into a fight while intoxicated- 41%

Percentage of national college students who drink three of more times a week- 22%

Percentage of Hamilton students who drink three or more times a week- 46%

Percentage of national college students who have done "something they regret" while intoxicated- 36%

Percentage of Hamilton students who have done "something they regret" while intoxicated- 60%

SOURCE: ALL DATA FROM KAZIN PRESENTATION, 1/26/04

Alcohol on the Hill

A Special Report

If you're not part of the solution...

by John Rick '05
SPECIAL PROJECTS WRITER

Regardless of how silly the law may be-and it is-it's illegal if you're under twenty-one to consume alcohol. Moreover, even if you're over twenty-one, you have no right to drink on campus. Rather, Hamilton affords you that privilege while matriculating here.

What privileges Hamilton should afford its students is debatable. As our framework, let's recognize that college students will drink and do drugs; these are, after all, and rightfully, our so-called experimental years, where we come of age, find ourselves, experience rites of passage. The trick is doing it responsibly.

Of course, drinking and drugs are not inherently bad; in fact, they're often good. The collegiate motto, work hard, party hard, captures the ideal state. The problem is that instead of a balance, it's often, work hard, party harder.

This wouldn't be an issue if, after drinking or using drugs students didn't have unwanted sexual activity, miss classes or perform poorly, commit vandalism, injure themselves and/or others, etc. But in fact this happens-a lot. And regardless of our comparison with other schools-to date, no statistics comparing Hamilton to comparable schools have been compiled-the consequences should concern you.

But it's easy to complain; the difficulty lies in forming solutions. First, disregard the straw man that Hamilton has no social options. If true, we have only ourselves to blame, what with Greeks, athletics, CAB, and the plethora of other student organizations. If false, as it is, Hamilton's resources are as extensive as you're willing to avail yourself of them.

Second, I suggest a sophomore seminar and lectures devoted to these issues. The only way to combat a problem is to recognize it is a problem, and the only way to recognize something is a problem is to learn about it and understand it. Likewise, a talented speaker, which former alcoholics usually are, tends to tell indelible stories.

Yet ultimately, as Professor Phil Klinker has observed, students need to police students. For instance, one night last year in Bundy East, a party in the basement destroyed the place. True to our two-thirds equals one-fourth slogan, the vandalizers were few. Everybody knew who they were; nobody came forward-even after Res. Life permanently closed the basement, which housed the dorm's only laundry facilities.

To be sure, I don't advocate informing on your friends. Rather, I say take preventive action. We all know which of our friends drink to oblivion, each friend's capacity, which friends alcohol turns aggressive. Since 1983, we've heard that "friends don't let friends drive drunk," and we've listened.[1] When then should friends let friends hurt themselves, their friends, their families, and their futures?

So, the ball's in our court. The Coalition on Alcohol, chaired by Dean Thompson and including representatives from Our United Responsibility, Student Assembly, and the Intersociety Council, has until March 15 to submit a recommendation on how to "reduce the consequences associated with the excessive and irresponsible use of alcohol on the part of some students." They're eager for student input. Give them yours. Attend the Adler Conference, whose topic this year addresses these issues. Talk with Bob Kazin, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, who oversees the surveys that account for Hamilton's alcoholic stats. This is our college; it will soon be our alma mater. If you're not part of the solution...

[1] "Campaigns That Have Made a Difference," The Advertising Council. <http://www.adcouncil.org/campaigns/historic_campaigns/>

PHOTO BY LETTY ZED BEDARD '06

The Alcohol Coalition is attempting to stamp out Hamilton's drinking problem.

Motivate yourself and others

A letter to the student body from the Alcohol Coalition's student reps

We challenge you to take initiative and address a pressing issue. In the midst of the intense debate regarding the role of alcohol on campus, we encourage the student body to take action. This is the time to do your part, engage in the problem, and consider the consequence of an apathetic community.

We offer to you a forum for discussion and an opportunity to voice your concerns. As representatives of the student body, we are open to your suggestions and advocate your position.

We ask you to take advantage of the opportunity to have your opinion heard. Look to public forums such as the Adler conference to participate in the process of finding a solution to problem. We have adequate time to make a difference as long as we act now. Motivate yourself, motivate others, and step up to the plate. Come March 15th the alcohol coalition will have finished their recommendation. It will be a decision of considerable magnitude which will have a severe impact on our social culture here at Hamilton. If we don't take the initiative they will. We must give our contribution to the solution, and without student involvement in the process of the recommendation, the student body is defenseless.

Let us mobilize the voice of the Students. Let us hold each other accountable and make positive change. Let us impact the administration's decision, and contribute to an acceptable resolution and compromise for the apparent crisis.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Dolan '05
Student Assembly President
Student Representative on the Alcohol Coalition

Robert Wang '05
Inter-Society President
Student Representative on the Alcohol Coalition

Stop boozing, start talking

by Blake Erb '05
I & I WRITER

The consumption of alcoholic beverages by students, and the positive and negative effects that result from such an activity, is a topic of much debate and interest in college and universities across the United States. This does not exclude Hamilton College. This semester, the issue of Hamilton's alcohol policy will be on the forefront of many administrators' agendas, including that of President Stewart. This is an issue that directly affects all members of the Hamilton community, especially the students of this college.

This semester, the Alcohol Coalition, composed of student representatives from Student Assembly, Residential Life Staff and Intersociety Council (ISC), along with faculty and administrators, have been asked by President Stewart to come up with a plan to attack the problems associated with student consumption of alcohol. Recently, the Alcohol Coalition presented the data on Hamilton students and drinking compiled by Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Robert Kazin, and Associate Professor of Psychology Gregory Pierce. Many of the figures that were shown to the Student Assembly and the public can be seen in this issue of the Spectator. As well as being the Alcohol Coalition and the agendas of President Stewart and the Student Assembly, the issues surrounding alcohol consumption are to be the topic of this year's Adler Conference. The Adler Conference will be held in late February and will provide all students with a chance to speak out on these issues and come up with potential solutions to the many problems facing our campus that are caused by student use of alcohol.

As one can see upon viewing the statistics complied by Kazin and Pierce, Hamilton does not compare well to the average American institution. Many of our percentages concerning the amount of students that have experienced negative effects or experiences due to alcohol are significantly higher than that of the national average. It is crystal clear to me that the Hamilton student body has a problem concerning alcohol consumption, and new solutions and policies need to be devised to address these rising problems. However, it seems that many students do not see this as clearly as I do. As I watched the Student Assembly begin to question Kazin about the numbers and the conclusions he and the Alcohol Coalition had drawn from them, I quickly became appalled and even somewhat angry. Instead of immediately discussing potential strategies and ideas to address the problems staring them right in the face, many of our so-called "student leaders" insisted on picking at minor details of the methodology and asking for statistical comparisons to other NESCAC schools instead of using the national average. Assembly members stated that our numbers may be similar to those of other NESCAC schools and that we don't actually have a problem, but that our numbers are "normal" and can be attributed to the environment by which our small, private, elite, liberal arts schools are surrounded. Our Student Assembly members apparently could not see that our numbers were high. Period. It didn't matter to whom or what we compared our numbers to. Hamilton College's results were disturbingly high and we should not have been trying to make excuses for these numbers or legitimize them.

Finally, the discussion turned to ideas on how to lower the amount of negative consequences due to consumption of alcohol without alienating or infuriating members of the community. Obviously, this is a touchy and sensitive issue, and it will be impossible to please all parties involved. Once again, I was amazed at the responses of some of the members of the Student Assembly. The most common idea I heard was to have more events on campus offering alcohol. It seems to me that some members of the student government have flawed logic. How does one expect to reduce the problems caused by alcohol consumption when one is willing to provide more of the very substance that is causing said problems? If my friend was attempting to quit smoking, I would not offer him/her cigarettes or cigars or a pipe, I would offer him/her alternatives. There is the magic word: alternatives.

Instead of focusing just on alcoholic eventsstudents need to take advantage of the many other events, options and opportunities available on this campus. Every semester there are numerous events held by the Campus Activities Board (CAB), the Independent Music Fund (IMF), the Samuel Kirkland Society, the Black Student Union, La Vanguardia, the Womyn's Center, the Hamilton Outing Club (HOC) and all of the other student-run and organized groups on campus. Students don't realize or pay attention to the fact that it actually would be impossible to take advantage of all the opportunities that are offered at Hamilton, even if they tried. Unfortunately, it seems students don't even make an attempt to enjoy the entertainment, education and experiences offered by the student organizations, academic departments and administrative offices of Hamilton College.

It should be noted that the statistics presented by the Alcohol Coalition show that the majority

*see **Talking**, page 11*

Insights and Ideas

Your party lines are showing!

by Britten Chase '05
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

So – you waited, you wondered, you counted down, you stayed up all night, and thirty days ago it finally arrived. 2004. The New Year, election style.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking to yourself "Self, I can't believe that Brit abandoned us for all time only to come back and write yet another article about the election. Return her to exile."

Friends, I am here to help. I'm an esteemed (B average) political scientist. I know that politics can be complicated, confusing, and easy to make fun of.

As a Democrat, my first reaction to this election cycle was similar to many other Democrats facing the prospect of this upcoming November. With Saddam recently captured, the economy "not-recovered-but-in-a-position-to-make-people-think-it-could-be-maybe-kinda-sorta," I began looking for beaches, or playgrounds, or construction sites, or anywhere with exceptionally soft sand that would be ideal for burying my head in until its all over.

Why? Come on. You hear it everywhere. We Democrats (nickname: thugs) are gonna get annihilated. Who can beat Bush (nickname: Dubya) in 2004? He conquered the brave and mighty (fast, when running away) army of Iraq, he's almost found weapons of mass destruction (in Libya), he single-handedly saved us from the forces that opposed us (UN), and he may or may not be faster than a speeding bullet (fast), more powerful than a locomotive (powerful), and smarter than the average bear (Yogi).

There is no escaping 2004. Kerry is not a small gymnast who hit a vault to win a gold medal, Sharpton is not simply a bad dream, and Super Tuesday does not mean 29-cent hamburgers at McDonalds. I know. It's tough to take. Be strong.

Actually, I, Brit (nickname: Maximum Destruction) have to be honest. I have enjoyed the primaries this time. It is really nice to finally have Democrats talking about what they are going to do instead of constantly ripping on Republicans and, well... Democrats.

Voters this year have an interesting strategy. Rather than compare policies, voting records, ideals, or any subject that... you know... you'd want to agree with when it comes to your elected official, voters are implementing what I call the ABB strategy. Anyone But Bush. I do agree; that is a noble cause.

However.

Fans, we live in an unprecedented time of partisanship. In fact, this may be one of the most partisan time periods in the US in the history of the universe (the greatest universe ever). I remember over break I went into a bookstore and was browsing through the current events section: book after book after book raising up the left and bashing the right. Or vice versa.

Did you see the State of the Union? Half the audience applauded. Wow. What unity (extreme sarcasm). Y'all, it's depressing. Wanna know why?

See, we have serious problems in this country. But the cool thing about us is that we do have the power to change things for the better. Everyone really can have health care. The environment can be saved. You don't have to be taxed until the cows come home (should the cows be away from home, for whatever reason). My parents should have social security. I should have social security.

What sucks is we can't do it with half of the country charging all-out forward and the other half charging all-out on Capitol Hill. Democrats: Want to make this country better? Bring it together. Tearing down Republicans is not going to do it. Ranting about WMDs or lack thereof won't get people on your side.

Make us believe that we can be reunited again; that we aren't so different from each other. After all, we are all Americans. No joke.

I want Bush out of the White House because he has proven that even with the abundance of patriotism after 9/11, he still couldn't unite us. He has torn this country apart to the point that we could not even agree on the color of sight.

I can't vote in the primaries. The great state of Colorado (new name post English-only enactments: Red) does not have a primary, and wouldn't vote Democratic ever. And Bush is supposed to win anyway.

But, maybe, just maybe if we can make people believe in the greatness of this country and its leaders and citizens (all at the same time), we Democrats may have a chance.

No Straw Men

by Jonathan Rick '05
INSIGHTS & IDEAS COLUMNIST

'Black' Does Not Mean 'African-American'

Apropos of Martin Luther King, I noticed that most people refer to those with "black"[1] skin tone as "African-Americans." Why?

My ancestors came from Austria and Russia. Those Ricks who grew up there, or those who after emigrating retained their ethnic customs, may call themselves Austrian- or Russian-Americans. But I grew up in America, and my only attachment to these countries is titular. I am therefore an American, period.

Sure, other Americans often retain elements of their ancestral ethnic culture, and people often have sentimental attachments to their ethnic and/or racial backgrounds. But not all "blacks" come from the African continent (e.g. Haiti and Jamaica), and relatively few today, in the context of the world black population, actually grew up there.

Thus, only those American "blacks" who grew up in Africa or who retain African customs and mores are, in fact, "African-Americans."

We should, therefore, not interchange "African-American" ("an American of African and especially of black African descent" according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary) with "black" (a person with black skin tone).

Let people call themselves whatever they want - self-identity is crucial - but let's call them what they are. In fact, let's not even refer to people by their skin color tone; let's just refer to people, of all colors, by their individual characteristics (swimmer, poet, entrepreneur).

[1] I put "black" in quotes because, like white, it's imprecise to describe skin color tone. Rather, the more melanin people have in their skin, the darker they are.

Reflections from the 2004 New Hampshire Primary

With eleven other Hamilton students this past weekend, I volunteered for Senator John Kerry's (D-MA) presidential campaign in Keene, New Hampshire [1]. Listening to the Democratic candidates in person and their supporters' questions, in combination with many personal conversations (including some on the phone and at doorways) prompted the following reflections, albeit based on two days and two nights.

First, as I've previously written, ideas matter - a lot. Fundamental political differences are, in fact, differences of worldviews. For instance, the position that health care is a right, as opposed to a privilege, describes one's attitude not only toward liberty and government, but also toward responsibility, merit, poverty, etc. To wit, politics is psychological, sociological, philosophical, etc.

Second, just because you like political science doesn't mean you'll like political activism. In the former, one debates whether Saddam was a threat or whether we could have contained him. In the latter, one lambastes either

*see **No Straw Men**, page 13*

Thumbs Up

- Couples who are joined at the pelvis.
- Rocking a huge toe on the treadmill.
- The Reference Librarians on a power trip.
- Matt: "Let's say something about PBX. They're so easy."
- Crew team!!!
- !!!! (Crew team)
- The PBX/ATX PowderPuff match-up... it doen't matter what the spread is, everyone gets laid.
- The scandalous arrests on Real World San Diego: apparently there are more ruthless cops than the KPD.

Thumbs Down

- Couples who are joined at the hip.
- Seeing the item you lost at last weekend's Bundy party on someone in Commons.
- Checking out your rippling muscles in mirror while you work-out... who needs to watch a TV when there is an American Gladiator in front of you?
- The walkways seeing less action from the Physical Plant than freshman boys in North.
- The Jitney! Do we still have a Jitney? What do we pay these people for? Jerks.
- Seniors missing Boozeday at the V.T. because they have an 8 AM Beginning Swimming class.

~~Nakul Patel '05~~, ~~Peyton Gray '05~~, Avery Schlicher '05, Deirdre Fenton '04, and Matthew Amoroso '05

Who Cares?

- M&M sorting on February 11th at 8.
- Nakul and Peyton. And Squash.
- And FebFest.
- Rio Grande Tex Mex.
- Assorted chicken pieces at Commons.
- Hamilton's "Drinking Problem."
- Deirdre's post-graduation plans.
- Stealing from the library when you think no one is watching.
- Empty boxes... at the mail center, perv.

One nation, indivisible, with Tampax and Kotex for all

by Elizabeth Butler '04
INSIGHTS & IDEAS CONTRIBUTOR

One box of 40 Playtex tampons: $8.99. Twelve months of regular menstruations: $107.88. Forty years of being a fertile woman: $4,315.20. A presidential candidate who supports free tampons, thus preventing women from bleeding on their brand new white shorts: priceless.

There are some things money can't buy; for everything else there's your hard-earned wages. Wait, what? Does this seem fair? Mom always said "life isn't fair," but I don't think she was referencing the female menstrual cycle.

Not only do women get the chance to go through the pain of childbirth, but they also have to pay their way to bloody hell and back (pun intended) from ages 13 to 53. During these years, women experience the monthly joy that is the period. It's not a good period (that's for sure), because if it were, it would probably be called the exclamation mark, or at the very least, the asterisk.

With the cost of a decent box of tampons at $8.99, females in New York State have to work nearly two hours at minimum wage just to buy them. It's time for a change - and by change I don't mean a little shot glass shoved up there that collects all my blood and requires perpetual emptying (sorry for the visual, boys).

These are our bodies, and we should have the right to a variety of affordable options for period protection. Women should not be economically punished for being women. The answer to this dire problem is government funding!

Now, you could say "C'mon ladies, do you really need to buy the top of the line tampons?" It's true that one box of 40 CVS brand tampons is $4.99, but those are of the "regular rounded tip" variety.

Gosh, aren't we thankful they thought to round the tip and not shape it like a cinderblock? Golly, with that round shape, putting in a tampon is like eating an ice cream cone - joy - pure bliss! Goodness, that nice round tip makes all the difference in the world. I mean, you say potato, and all I can say is rounded tip... right.

Even CVS knows this isn't true, because they offer a box of 40 "soft" tampons for $6.99. These aren't batteries or plastic cups for beer-pong that I'm buying here. The generic brand may not produce the same result as the name brand, and I sure as hell don't want to stick it inside of me to find out!

Our vaginas deserve comfort (oh my gosh - did she really just say that word!?). Would you wear boxers made of thorns? Would you go to a proctologist still in training? There are some things you don't want to experiment with, and vaginas definitely fall into that category.

So back to the solution: government funding for feminine hygiene products. Every health center from here to eternity is just giving away free condoms, cough drops, and aspirin. I get my period far more frequently that I get a cough in need of medication; so, how about some free tampons as well?

Socially, it's unacceptable (not to mention unsanitary) for women to walk around just bleeding all over the place. There are always maxi pads, but seriously, raise your hand if you want to sit through your next Econ or Soc class roosting in your blood just waiting for the damn thing to start leaking.

Frankly, despite social norms, I for one wouldn't feel comfortable walking around bleeding freely. However, the answer is not to abandon tampons. Sure they're a bit of a prehistoric solution, but until I can get dirt cheap, side effect free shots that remove my period until I'm good and ready, tampons are the solution of choice.

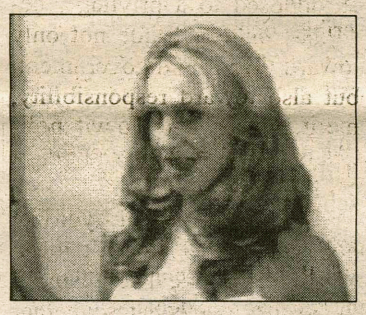
But, gosh-darn it, tampons should be free. With women, on average, making only 76% of what men earn, there is no reason that a females' already lower incomes should be even more depleted by the high costs of feminine hygiene products. We should not be monetarily disadvantaged because we're menstruating creatures! Our menstruation aids creation - love us, romance us, give us tampons for free!

The election is quickly approaching, and I have yet to hear a candidate address this pressing issue. With half the population consisting of women, a candidate who supports making tampons free (or, at the very least, making them reasonably priced) is sure to up his ratings.

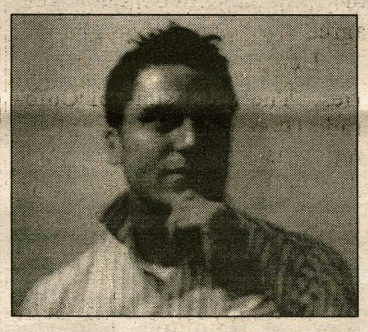
Give me any candidate who will support free feminine hygiene products, and I'll give them my vote. Dean, Kerry, Edwards... it doesn't matter. I'll take anyone who will make being a woman more affordable... well, anyone except Bush.

Come on Clinton:

Interactions, intercourse, and the Internet



Klitora Kirkland
Sarah Schwartz '04



Phallixander Hamilton
Dan Fiore '04

Last weekend, Phallix called Mr. Right Now on his way home from work, only to get the answering machine. Disgruntled, he checked his computer screen for an Instant Message when he arrived at home, only to find Paris Hilton's sex tape playing again.

Squeezing his firm buttocks in frustration, Phallix checked his three email accounts (phamilton@hamilton.edu, tobinfan4@smokin.net, and becmustdie@breasts.org) for some word from Mr. Thang, yet he found nothing. Phallix began to panic, pacing the room in his Prada shoes, when Klitora came by for an afternoon Keystone light.

She saw Phallix in his needy, pathetic state, and tongue-kissed him until he was so turned off that he came back to his senses. Hey, that's what sex-column partners are for.

Before the days of email, cellular phones, and Instant Messenger, couples went days without contacting each other, and thought nothing of it. They also had to choose their words more carefully and represent themselves more accurately, for they had fewer modes of communication.

But with more and more ways to get in touch, people in relationships have the luxury (or curse) of always being able to know where their partner is, and are always able to say whatever they want to say without much regard for its effects.

Am I My Screen Name?

It has been said that Instant Messaging and email has given the average person too much power to express him or herself. Indeed, this power is often found in the wrong hands: Klitora's ignorant ex-boyfriend used the format of email to express his anger towards her, using vocabulary straight from the Jerry Springer show in expressing his sentiments.

On the positive (or perhaps negative) side of the issue, one Hamiltonian said that IM and email interactions allow one to reveal things about him or herself that they might not ordinarily say. This person has a point, but it begs the question: if you can't bear to say something to someone's face, should you say it at all?

Our answer is tentatively yes, if you use your Internet privilege wisely. Don't decide to never speak to someone again over IM, or use the Internet as a quick, convenient way of ducking out of a two-year relationship. It's just not right.

One junior male said, "Virtually every hookup I've had has been via IM on gay.com. I think it's especially helpful for non-heterosexuals to meet people." This is where the Internet has become quite important and beneficial.

Still, some students find themselves losing all social skills in the face of technology. Dr. Backaliscious explained the phenomenon as she experiences it: "I start shaking whenever I actually have to talk to a guy in person."

In the same spirit as last week's column, it's hard to talk dirty in person, but one can say whatever you want on IM. This sometimes gets us into trouble.

Using reduced effort to express yourself can lead you to pick your words casually and callously. Suppose you do put a lot of effort into finding the right words; the other party may just chalk it up to a meaningless IM interaction. Even though we have more actual time to choose our words, we act like we have less, and spew verbal diarrhea across the screen.

Just remember to use your words wisely in all situations, and that the more accepting we become as people, the easier it will be to be "yourself" in all modes of communication.

We know it's snowy and awful out there, so use what you have to bring yourself all the love and sex you need and deserve. Keep your heads up. You've got Phallix and Klitora behind you, and sometimes under you.

Alternatives to alcohol

*from **Talking**, page 9*

of Hamilton students drink only occasionally or moderately. It is the minority of heavily drinking students that are causing the majority of the problems. These are the students that I'm addressing.

Whereas my choice to attend a CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse, or to go on a HOC trip, has little to no effect on any of my peers, one's decision to drink heavily, become intoxicated, lose control and potentially get in a fight, drive drunk, destroy public or another's private property, or just be plain disruptive has a major effect on one's friends, family, peers and even strangers and non-Hamilton community members.

The dependency on alcohol as a pre-requisite for a "good time" that I have seen students display is terrifying. This desire to lose control of one's body and mind in the name of fun times is, although somewhat understandable when considering the stress of college and intensity of Hamilton workloads, ultimately self-destructive and dangerous.
Whenever my close friends go out with intent to drink, I always become very concerned and worried. So much can go wrong in a social setting when one is sober; being drunk just multiplies these dangers.

I'm concerned that my female acquaintances will be taken advantage of and not have the capacity to defend themselves or call for help. I worry that my friends will get in fights, get hurt, or participate in questionable drug use.

These are just a couple of dangers that are very possible in today's society. The American drinking culture of "binge drinking" and "drinking to get drunk" is a prime culprit of these problems.

My revulsion to this type of drinking culture and behaviour at Hamilton leads me to throw my support to the ideas of banning hard liquor on campus and imposing more strict and immediate disciplinary measures.

I fully plan on attending and participating in the Adler Conference this February to propose and defend these strategies. I encourage and plead with all students that have strong opinions regarding this matter to attend as well. This is a chance for students to have a concrete and important influence on college policy. Speak out. Call me a prude and propose your idea for open taps in the dining halls and the creation of our own little "Hamiltonia" nation on the hill, where the drinking age is lax sixteen years.

Attend Student Assembly meetings and stay informed. Don't let a small, elite group of students dictate a policy that affects us all. Whether you are a fresh, just-out-of-the-gates January admit, or a bitter and hardened second semester Senior, voice your opinions. These issues directly apply to us, and we should flex our collective muscles in coming up with solutions.

So, throw off the "apathetic" label that so many give to college students and invest yourself. Don't sit back, wait for a decision to be made and then whine and moan about the results. Assert yourself and step out of that warm and soft "comfort zone." Let's talk. Now.

If you were a member of the opposite sex, what fraternity/sorority would you be in, and why?

Gamma Xi; how many times do you get to be a living attraction?

- Chris Lipuma '07

KSA, because I have a sincere dedication to community service and fostering a nurturing environment.

- Mike Rapetti '06

Psi U: 'Sweet dude, go kill yourself.'

- Greer Mahoney '05

PBX, so my dad will buy me a Mercedes.

- Steve Nelson '04

DU, 'cause they're crazy and have lots of fun... and we like to break stuff.

- Maria Mendez and Meriya Ho, '06

Can I sit at the cool kids' table?

by Bill Chenevert '05
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

My enthusiasm for Hamilton waxes and wanes about as often as the moon. Being able to work for *The Spectator* has bolstered my school spirit, but since As are almost unattainable, my zeal for the college has weakened.

Recently receiving a Student Travel Award definitely made me feel like Hamilton is a place of unique opportunities; but Commons at noon makes me hate Hamilton, its students, and everything about this place.

Yes, strong words, but shortly after a frustrating Commons run the other day, I was pulling my hair out and cursing Hamiltonians for what I interpreted as an unhealthy obsession with image and reputation. Allow me to explain.

The aforementioned Student Travel Award allowed me to travel to Austin, Texas to speak with an alumnus who runs a magazine. I traveled alone, not by choice, but had no problems at all going out and subsequently finding strangers who invited me to join them in conversation and consumption of alcohol.

Furthermore, I felt completely comfortable walking up to a group of young people at a bar and saying, "Can I join you guys?" In each case, friendly and mutual conversation ensued when genuine interest in each other's history and general background was obvious. This is about the opposite of most of the experiences I have had in Commons during a busy mealtime.

My parents used to say to me, "College is what you make of it." My being an RA, involvement in the Spec and the Media Board, and pursuing a double major shows my parents that I'm making the most of my time at Hamilton (I hope).

Other people, I'm convinced, act as though the sole objective on campus is to be the coolest, most attractive, most sought-after socialite, and most sexually active member of the community.

The Commons cat-walk freaks me out consistently while others relish in the opportunity to show off their quirky outfit of fleeces, vests, scarves, pajama pants and baseball caps which add up to a $200 outfit.

Furthermore, it is very intimidating to walk into the main dining hall, tray in hand, and scan the crowd for a familiar face. Please, let there be a table that I can sit at! This hospitality that I enjoyed in Texas is merely a fond memory, and Commons is a place where I feel intimidated by large tables full of society members or unwelcoming circles of friends.

In another scenario, I'll sit down by myself or with one or two friends at a big empty table only to be descended upon by a swarm of DU brothers shortly thereafter. The quandary: Do I stay here? Do I move? Is that a rude thing to do? They obviously don't want me here, but I was here first!

Basically, I often don't feel comfortable in my own backyard. Some people place way too much importance on whether you have a name in the party scene at Hamilton, who you know, who you've hooked up with, what society you're in, and what you look like. It's gross and depressing!

Enjoy yourself here on the Hill as a shining star on the social scene, because, soon enough, you'll be reminiscing about your days as a hard-partying superstar at Hamilton to your kids, who won't care at all.

So how do Commons, Texas, uppity Hamiltonians and getting involved in more worthwhile causes while on the Hill relate to each other? Good question. I feel like Commons is a microcosm of things that frustrate me about the social climate at Hamilton. I end up eating alone a lot, being in a single in a building with none of my closest friends, and for some reason I tend to get this overwhelming feeling of embarrassment when I see huge crews of dumbasses that roll into Commons and take up a whole table.

Meanwhile, I'm sheepishly reading anything on the table to make it seem like I'm not scanning crowds for some familiar faces to join me at my table. It seems unfortunate that I'm unwilling to try to sit with some "strangers" at Commons because of a fear that they will just ignore me, talk amongst themselves and generally make me feel uncomfortable.

People, please, take yourselves less seriously, invest your time in something more significant than your image in the Hamilton community and be a little more friendly to your fellow students. We're all going through the same thing, we all got into this school and we all have varied backgrounds and interests.

So please, stop pretending that your poop smells like roses and that everyone else at this school isn't good enough to be seen talking with you.

Looking back: this cartoon was published in a 1996 edition of the Spectator. Is it still relevant today?

Worried about all the sweeping changes that may be occurring on the Hill? Write for I&I and be heard.

Contact Allison at adavis or Whit at wrothe for information.

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Letters to the Editor

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1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editors (adavis@hamilton.edu or wcheneve@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

To the Editor:

While I was happy to see that the Spectator is paying more than mere lip service to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, the mixed messages of your editorial (1/23/2004) were appalling.

Much of your editorial poignantly describes how American society "overtly and covertly" discriminates against people of color. From the stories I have heard and continue to listen to-as recently as during the Martin Luther King dinner celebration, I concur.

Later in the piece, however, you assert-singularly-that "white people must take responsibility to [sic] for changing the racist institutions that make up our society," a finding that flies in the face of one of the central principles of the Civil Rights/equality movement.

I am hardly an authority on the philosophy of Dr. King, but I do know that of all his goals, peacefully uniting all races in pursuit of widespread social transformation proved crucial to his labors. To suggest that in isolation whites can make this change alone is to overlook Dr. King's vision.

In an even larger lapse of judgment, your editorial concludes that "by virtue of the fact that [whites] participate in a system rank with racial inequalities, white people are racist."

Skipping over the glaring generalization of an entire race of people, how are we in the Hamilton community to change the status quo if we do not work within that very system? Revolutions begin on the inside of a society as often as from the outside.

The misleading message of your editorial-that our predominately white community must shrug off our cloak of apathy is valid, despite your polemical method. Further, I believe everyone in the community, without exception, must heed the renewed call for change.

Nevertheless, your editorial board needs to review the language and philosophy of your appeal for change.

John D. Adams '06

To the boy(s) who left a pile of garbage in front of my office in Milbank in the dark of the night, January 27/28:

Next time you have a message to pass on to me, try doing it in a way that doesn't require the custodian to clean it up the next day. Infants and toddlers depend upon adults to clean up their messes; however, most children by the age of 5 or so are taught to pick up after themselves. Obviously your parents skipped that stage in your socialization.

If you meant to suggest that I am wrong in objecting to the colonization of Hamilton dorms by private societies, I have to say I remain unconvinced by your argument.

Sincerely,

Maurice Isserman
Professor of History

To the Editor:

When speakers at a high school "Participation in Government" class were asked to invite outside speakers to debate controversial issues, I accepted this opportunity to discuss why I believed the school should stop purchasing animal "specimens" for teaching biology, and should instead use lifelike three-dimensional plastic models with removable parts and/or interactive computer programs.

I showed the class a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) video, "Classroom Cut-ups," which depicted, among other abominations, workers at a dissection supply house embalming animals – from cats to crabs – while they were still alive.

Frogs re usually dropped into an alcohol solution, which takes about 20 painful minutes to cause death.

According to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the formaldehyde used to preserve the animals' bodies can harm people exposed to it. Formaldehyde is a carcinogenic irritant to eyes, skin, throat, lungs and nasal passages.

The National Association of Biology Teachers has urged schools to offer alternatives to dissection.

I shared this with all the students, and asked if their biology class dissection experiences helped them learn biology. Most replied no.

One student wondered if it was unethical to dissect fetal pigs that were taken from the bodies of their butchered mothers. They would not have survived anyway. I replied that dissecting fetal pigs was perhaps a lesser evil tha killing live animals for dissection, but why dissect any animal?

Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer told Dateline NBC, "in 9th grade, in biology class, we had the usual dissection of fetal pigs, and I took the remains home and I just started branching out to dogs and cats."

I suggested to the students that while I trusted their dissection experiences had not demonized them, I nevertheless agreed with Adelphi University Professor George Russell, who wrote that "dissection not only fails to promote reverence for life, but encourages the tendency to blaspheme it" by desensitizing students to cruelty and to the sanctity of life.

But this school and most schools and colleges in our state continue to emphasize dissection. Educational administrators should listen to what one student told PETA – "I passed geography without leaving my home state, and passed geology without seeing planets collide. It's insulting to argue that students can't understand anatomy unless they stick scissors into a frog's brain."

Joel Freedman

Chairman of Public Education
Animal Rights Advocates of Upstate New York

Reflections on the 2004 New Hampshire Primary

from No Straw Men, page 10

the absence of WMD or the people lambasting that absence.

Third, in campaigning, slogans trump substance. Howard Dean declares himself "pro-education." John Kerry asks, "If George Bush wants to make foreign policy an issue in this campaign, I say, 'Bring it on!'" Al Sharpton refers to "weapons of mass deception." Yet while these sound bites generate applause, they say nothing; who, after all, could be anti-education in the broadest sense? Hence, we may laugh, but we learn nothing about a candidate's positions.

Fourth is the job known as "visibility." It's as simple as it sounds; you stand in a well-trafficked public place waving a big sign featuring your candidate's name. Yet while such advertisements may quickly inform passersby of a candidate's relative popularity, they appeal to a herd mentality: vote for Dean because everyone else is.

Fifth, asking volunteers why they support a candidate or why they abhor Bush or how Kerry differs from Dean reveals an uninformed populace. Typical answers cite not political positions, but personalities.

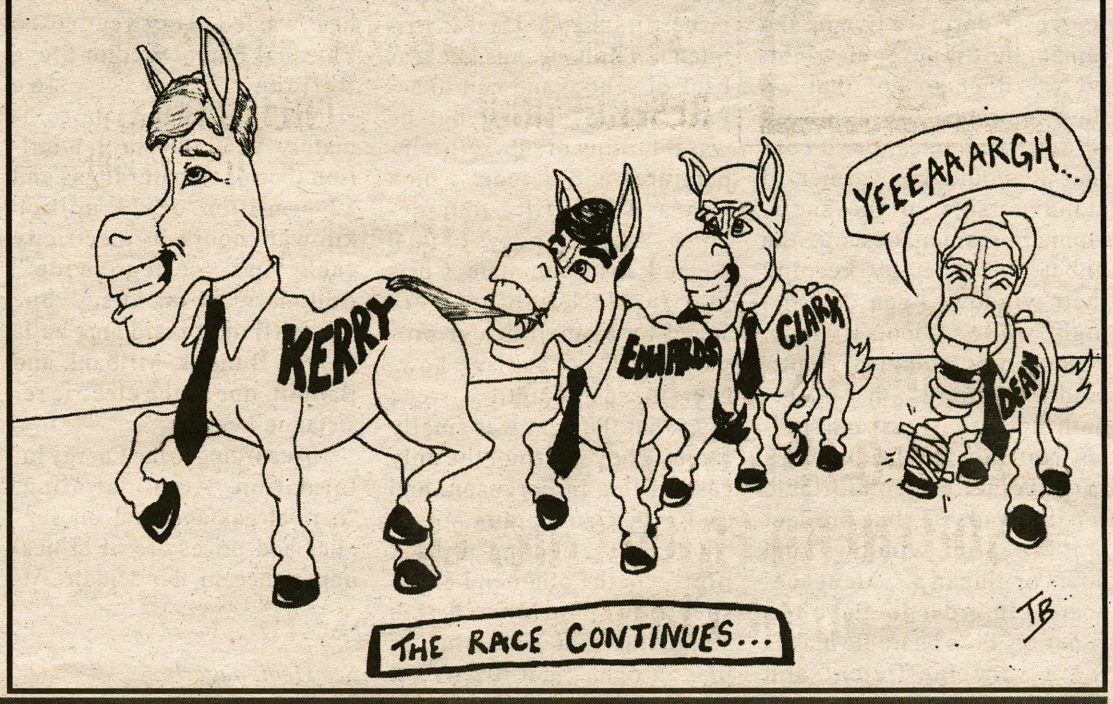
Sixth, many people, both candidates and voters, criticize their opponents more than they promote themselves. Indeed, while taking a break to read a book for my history class titled Inside Hitler's Germany, one man asked me facilely, "Reading about Bush, huh?"

Seventh, presidential campaigning requires the skin of an oak tree, the excuses of a Hamilton student pleading for an extension on a final paper, and a lockjaw smile. Remember, though, that we all have skeletons in our closets.

In the end, I'm glad I went, because I experienced politics at its best - no place is busier politically than Iowa or New Hampshire during their caucus or primary; and politics at its worst - mud-slinging and anti-intellectualism. Of course, I can say these things only because I harbor no political aspirations and won't be campaigning again anytime soon.

[1] Thanks to Jon Kuhl '06 for organizing and Lisa Magnarelli

Drawing Criticism: by Tom Booth '06



Features

Primary Colors: *Campaigning in New Hampshire*

by Jon Kuhl '06
FEATURES EDITOR

It's probably not news to anyone that John Kerry pulled off a strong victory in the New Hampshire primary this week, crushing Howard Dean, who came in 13 percentage points behind Kerry to take second place. Watching the excitement on television from my dorm room, the only thing I could think about was how much I wished I was still there.

Leaving last Friday afternoon, I, and ten other Hamilton students, loaded into a jitney van and made the four-hour trip to Keene, New Hampshire. Keene is the quintessential New England small town. Well-kept shops and restaurants adorn Main Street (literally), leading up to a towering white wooden church topped with a steeple.

As we drove into town, we couldn't help but notice the dozens of Howard Dean supporters who happily waved to us and touted their large "Howard Dean for President" signs. Although seven of us were coming to campaign for John Kerry, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to hear Howard Dean speak at the local middle school.

Sneaking into a full to fire-capacity auditorium by pretending that we were members of the press, three of us managed to watch the Governor in person. After being introduced by film director Rob Reiner, Dean came charging out on stage. Although I am a strong Kerry supporter, there is nothing like getting caught up in the excitement of a political rally.

Dean spoke and answered questions for about forty-five minutes, after which he made his way down to the overflow room (a cafeteria), where people had watched the speech on a TV screen. Standing on a chair, Dean thanked everyone for coming and then took a few questions. Dean and Reiner then made their way down the rope-line, shaking our hands in the process.

After eating dinner and dropping the four Dean supporters off at his local office, the seven of us Kerry supporters made our way to Kerry's local office. Located on the second floor of a small office building on Main Street, Kerry's Keene office was a two room suite. The office looked like something out of a movie: the walls were covered with posters of the Senator, there were papers everywhere, and three card tables served as makeshift desks with computers on them- it was awesome. What I found most amusing, was the age of the people running the office- they were all either slightly older than me, or younger.

Working until almost five in the morning on mapping out the canvassing routes for the next day, several of us decided to spend the night in the hallway outside the office. Although the floor was hard, and the florescent lights above us wouldn't turn off, we slept fine. Fine, that is, until a very large female custodian bearing a Howard Dean sticker on her chest woke us up with a scream. In her defense, I suppose finding five guys sleeping in an office building is slightly disconcerting.

Still exhausted from our night on the floor, we made our way to the warehouse that the Kerry campaign had rented to accommodate the over 100 volunteers that were coming up for the weekend. After grabbing some muffins (it's amazing how much food people donate to campaigns), we climbed back into the jitney and headed off to knock on doors.

The first thing you have to know about New Hampshire is that in January, it's freezing (at least below zero). The second thing you have to know is that during the weeks leading up to the primary, people are sick of campaigns knocking on their doors and filling their mailboxes with campaign literature. We dealt with the cold by wearing as much as possible. We dealt with the annoyed voters of New Hampshire as best we could. Some people were truly charming, asking us about Kerry and engaging us on the issues; others just slammed the door, or pretended that they weren't even home. Looking at the results, at least we know we didn't hurt anything.

Finishing up our canvassing adventure, we decided that we would regret not getting to see the guy we were devoting our weekend to. Driving an hour to the Dartmouth campus, we were met with hundreds waiting to see the candidate. Even our best persuasive skills couldn't get us into the completely filled auditorium Kerry was speaking in. While waiting in the building's lobby however, we were met by an even better opportunity.

Followed by the large boom microphones and cameras that mark a frontrunner, in walked Senator John Kerry himself, with a huge smile on his face. Once inside, Kerry took the time to thank everyone for coming, and personally apologized that we couldn't get in. He then revved up the crowd by telling us how much he needed everyone's help in this cause, and why this was truly the fight of a generation. As he made his way to the auditorium and shook my hand, I couldn't help but connect with something. There was a confidence and aura about him that conveyed the essence of a President; I got the feeling that this guy was going all the way.

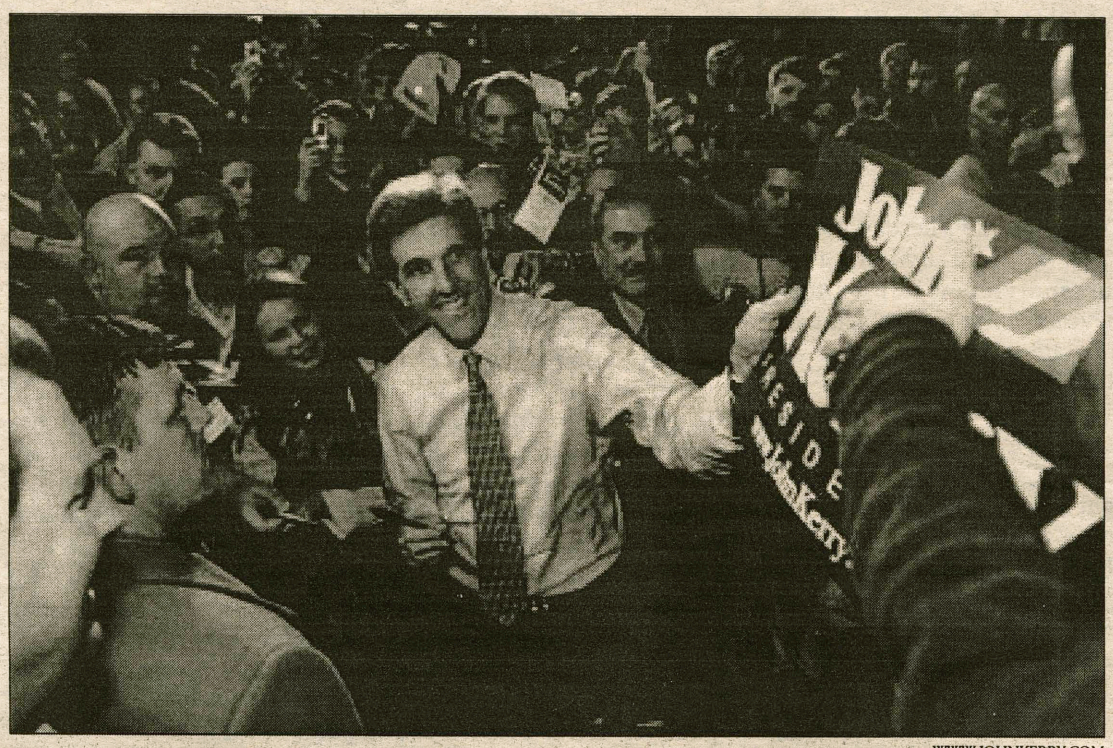
We ended up watching Kerry's speech from a small lecture hall where the press were stationed. Admittedly, I do have a bias, but having had the chance to hear both Dean and Kerry speak, I noticed a significant difference. Kerry spoke eloquently and specifically, Dean spoke rashly and broadly. Kerry paused and thought about questions, Dean fired back with answers he had used hundreds of times before. Sitting with the press was also amusing. Every time Kerry would say something slightly controversial, dozens of laptops would begin clicking, scrutinizing everything Kerry said.

Charged from hearing our candidate speak, we made it back to the office for dinner. After helping out with whatever needed to be done, we were fortunate enough to have a supporter put us up for the night. The beautifully re-done farm house and lovely family that hosted us were certainly a nice change from our night in the hall.

Sunday began with a much needed shower and breakfast. Afterwards, we took part in what is called 'visibility,' which entails standing on a sidewalk with a sign and waving to cars as they drive past. This wouldn't seem like the most exciting job in the world, but it is surprisingly competitive. Imagine a space roughly the size of the Dunham quad being filled with about fifty passionate campaign volunteers. Walking around the town, it was almost as if we were a part of some little yuppie gang, avoiding the Dean and Edwards people at all costs. Yes, even holding a sign can be fun; minus the cold wind (I forgot my gloves).

After about as much visibility as we could handle, we began another round of canvassing. Although there certainly were some rude people, it's nice when you run into someone who not only takes the process seriously, but also clearly puts effort into making an informed decision. Making one final stop at the Kerry office, we loaded up on food, and made our way to the Dean office to pick up our fellow campaigners.

Driving back in the van, I was struck by what a wonderful experience this had been. When you read in history books about the kind of government our founding fathers worked to create, it so often seems distant from the reality of our modern lives. Talking to the voters of New Hampshire, and seeing the candidates personally made me feel like I was experiencing what this country is all about.



WWW.JOHNKERRY.COM

John Kerry campaigns in St. Louis, Missouri after winning big in New Hampshire.

The hot and cold of it

by Kim Payne '04
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

It seems as though no matter which dorm we live in, the temperature is never just right: we're either so hot that we have to prance naked in front of our roommates, or so cold that it would be warmer to stand outside in the snow. Dunham residents escape the unbearable heat by keeping their windows open day and night, while students living in Ferguson complain of "butt-cold conditions" that affect both their beauty rest and studies. Not only are the extremes in temperature uncomfortable for the students, but the fact that we prop windows and doors or plug in private space-heaters in order to make our situation more bearable makes for a very inefficient and costly heating system.

Senior Kevin Docyk was one student who was forced to deal with Hamilton's heating issues first hand. He was irritated not only because he was back at school and had to actually go to classes, but he was returning to sub-zero temperatures and a room which was a balmy fifty-four degrees. After four days of this, he and his roommate Chris Martin-McNaughton were saved by a small heater provided by Physical Plant; however it wasn't until a week later that the heat was finally fixed. They were not the only case of this in Ferguson, and as Craig Cammaratta jokes, "dude, it's affecting my sex life!" On the other end of the spectrum, Marjorie Kazin complains that her room "is like an oven" and it's so hot she can hardly breathe. We can't seem to win.

Although there is no exact estimate for how much the heat wasted every year costs, Physical Plant Director Steve Bellona states, "we [Hamilton] spend approximately $750,000 or 1.1 million therms in natural gas and $2.4 million or 23 million kilowatt hours in electricity each year- college wide." Bellona went on to say "the least efficient residence halls are the Bundys, Milbank and Babbitt, due to the electric resistance heating."

According to the Energy Information Administration, "natural gas and fuel oil supplies and prices are of critical importance in the Middle At-

*See **Heat**, page 16*

Our United Responsibility:

Students form coalition to influence alcohol and social policies

by Sarah Gould '05
FEATURES EDITOR

Responding to recent surveys and measures being taken to address alcohol abuse at Hamilton, a group of students have formed a coalition aimed at promoting personal responsibility and student awareness on campus. The coalition, called Our United Responsibility (O.U.R.), is a grass-roots group designed to give students a voice in changing certain aspects of the social culture that contribute to the negative second-hand effects of alcohol abuse.

The result of increasing attention being paid to exorbitant damage bills, rising instances of vandalism, and sexual assault, O.U.R.'s mission is to encourage personal responsibility on the part of the student. With comparable schools undergoing social policy revisions, the possibility of wide-sweeping changes installed by Hamilton's administration proved to be only part of the motivating force behind O.U.R.'s initiative. More pertinent is the recently-released survey results indicating that the second-hand effects of alcohol abuse (ranging from sexual assault to vandalism to violence) at Hamilton have reached proportions far exceeding national averages. O.U.R.'s goal is to better the community by lessening these second-hand effects through student input and action.

Essential to the success of an effort like O.U.R.'s is a continuous and honest discourse between students and members of the Faculty. "We aim to produce a new sense of responsibility within the student body that will allow us to work in conjunction with the faculty and administration on the crucial decisions facing Hamilton," said founding member Tim Moyer '06. Members cite complete community awareness as the best way to open up the lines of communication.

Moyer explains that "O.U.R. comes from a motivation to ensure that the student body has a voice in the upcoming decisions regarding alcohol policy." The decision Moyer refers to is the March 15 deadline given to the Coalition on Alcohol, a group formed by President Joan Hinde Stewart and charged with the task of coming up with recommendations for curbing alcohol abuse and increasing alternative social options.

The members of O.U.R. are vehement in their conviction that students should be allowed the opportunity to voice their concerns and enact positive change from a personal and individual standpoint. A major mobilizing factor is the fast-approaching deadline and the very obvious need for social change on the Hamilton campus. Damage and violence stemming from many students - Greek and non-Greek, upperclassmen and freshmen - have driven the members of O.U.R. to an enthusiastic push towards a cultural turnaround.

Though still in the first month of existence, O.U.R.'s seventeen members have made significant headway in establishing a strong and motivated core.

In an effort to spread O.U.R.'s message to the wider Hamilton population, members drafted a petition (printed below) which will be stationed in Beinecke from February 2 thru February 6, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Students, Faculty, and members of the Administration are encouraged to come to Beinecke next week. Input and participation from all community members is essential to the group's cause.

For more information, please contact Tim Moyer (x2003) or Courtney McBride (x2273).

Our United Responsibility (O.U.R.) is a student run, student created organization. Its purpose is to provide students a voice in changing the social culture of Hamilton College. Absent student participation, changes will be enacted that may drastically reduce student privileges. In the changes to come O.U.R. voice must be heard.

By signing this petition I am indicating my willingness to be a part of the positive student initiated change about to take place on Hamilton's campus. I agree that vandalism, sexual assault, and violence must be eliminated and am willing to take action to ensure that they are. I ask that the faculty and administration, having accepted the students into the well respected and time-honored institution that is Hamilton College, place faith in the students' ability to enact positive change.

O.U.R.'s petition (above) will be available in Beinecke next week.

Features needs you... If you're interested in writing, please contact Sarah (sgould) or Jon (jkuhl)

THIS WEEK IN HAMILTON HISTORY

25 YEARS AGO
February 1, 1979

The following is an excerpt from an editorial written by the Spectator staff in 1979

Look how far Hamilton hasn't come...

In the early morning hours of December 7, 1978, several drunken Hamilton students bashed in the doors of the Chapel, broke several windows and ripped out a couple of pipes from the organ. Today those students, as well as countless others, know exactly who committed those acts of vandalism.

Approximately 1,600 students, however, will share in the payment of the damage. This is completely unfair. Those students who committed the acts of vandalism are operating under the premise that they can do whatever damage they want, and someone else will pick up the bill. This has got to stop.

We are all responsible for our actions, drunk or sober. We always talk about this campus being so far away from the real world. It certainly is, especially when all you get is a slap on the hand for an act of violence that would put you in jail anywhere else.

It is time to treat students like adults.

10 YEARS AGO
February 4, 1994

Hamilton student struck by car on College Hill Road

Late Thursday night, Jessica Shalom '96 wasstruck by an automobile on College Hill Road. The accident occurred across from the Bristol Campus center, according to Kirkland police officer Charles Kriz.

At 7:50pm, as the vehicle was driving uphill at about 30 MPH, the car's right side-view mirror struck Shalom. According to Kriz, Shalom was walking on the right shoulder of the road, with traffic, dressed in dark clothing on an unlit part of the street. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

According to Officer Kriz, the extent of Shalom's injuries were as follows: a chipped tooth, pain in the right shoulder, pain in her legs, and numerous cuts and lacerations.

11 YEARS AGO
January 29, 1993

Year-long rash of break-ins prompts extra lot patrolling

Shattered windows, shards of glass and clothes strewn across the pavement mark the scene of the crime as car break-ins abound at Hamilton. With seven incidents of car larceny reported so far this academic year, Hamilton has not escaped the nation's trend of rising crime rates.

Most items taken from students' cars inelude stereos, CD players, radar detectors, ski racks and jackets. The thieves usually sell the goods to consignment or "swap" shops or put them directly on the black market.

According to Campus Security Officer Brucker, the burglars usually see something specific inside the cars that they want. However, they often search through everything else, tossing aside what they do not find valuable.

Security deploys two cars throughout the night. One of these cars, on an ideal night, passes through the lot two times every hour. However, Security's other duties, such as giving students rides, securing the academic buildings or checking on noise complaints, often keep them too busy to vigilantly patrol the parking lots.

28 YEARS AGO
February 3, 1976

Handicapped Student Turned Away from Kirkland

Mary McKnew '77 didn't really believe that any further disappointment could possibly follow the series of tragedies which 1975 held for her.

In January, 1975, Mary lost her boyfriend Celvin Kebernick '77 in the auto accident from which she emerged paralyzed from the waist down.

Kirkland College has proven an obstacle, not an aid, to Mary's return to normal life: the Administration has refused to re-admit her as a matriculating student at this time.

Satisfied!

-Office of Communication and Development.

If given the chance after four years of study, students at Hamilton College are more likely than their peers to choose the same college. Hamilton students are also slightly more satisfied with their overall education than students at peer colleges, according to the results of an annual survey of college seniors.

In addition, the results mark the first time in many years that Hamilton students were more satisfied than their peers with campus social life (71 percent Hamilton vs. 67 percent peers) and more satisfied with the sense of community on campus (67 percent Hamilton vs. 66 percent peers), noted Director of Institutional Research Gordon Hewitt, who administered the survey and analyzed the results.

"Although the opinions of today's Hamilton students and those of their peers do not differ tremendously when considering social life and the sense of community on their campuses," Hewitt said, "there's been a marked improvement in Hamilton student satisfaction in these areas over the past four years."

In 1999, only 42 percent of Hamilton students were satisfied with campus social life, compared with 71 percent today.

"The relative dissatisfaction in 1999 was probably related to the college's Residential Life decision in 1995," Dean of Students Flossie Mitchell said. "In addition, due to an increase requested by students in the activities fee and other funds made available by the college, the Student Assembly now has nearly $500,000 each year with which to provide social programs on campus. The number and variety of student social programs have increased dramatically in recent years," Mitchell said.

Students suggest individual room thermostats

*Continued from **Heat**, page 14*

lantic Division, where winters are colder than in the United States as a whole." We can certainly attest to that; just take a look outside. And, it's not surprising that such winters are the reason why electricity in New York state costs $17.21 more (per billion Btu) than in the rest of the country.

So, are we doing our part at Hamilton to decrease this cost and conserve our nation's energy, not to mention make our own lives a little more comfortable? Wouldn't it be in the college's best interests to fit each room with individual thermostats so that we could adjust the temperature according to our own needs? If nothing else, Residential Life, Physical Plant and all those who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, can stop hearing about it.

Photo Gallery of the Week: *Alpha Delta Phi makes its mark on MLK, Jr. Service Day*

photos by Colton Riley '06

Brothers of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity spent the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day tutoring children from the Utica area. "It was a very powerful sight to see so many volunteers giving their time. It was obvious that Hamilton students truly care."- Colton Riley '06

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Buffalo Chicken Pizza (Med., Hot & BBQ Sauce) 13.95
Grandes Famous Upside Down Pizza
Marinara Sauce Topped With Grated Cheese 9.95

Items
Broccoli, Eggplant, Sausage, Mushrooms, Pepperoni, Peppers, Onions, Meatballs, Spinach, Anchovies, Double Cheese, Black Olives

Hormel foods

Pizza

	Small	Large
Cheese	6.00	8.95
1 Item	6.75	9.95
2 Items	7.50	10.95
3 Items	7.75	11.95
4 Items	8.50	12.95

Small = 8 pieces Large = 16 pieces

Slices
Garlic Slices ..... 1.16 each + tax
Pizza Slices ..... 1.16 each + tax
Extras ..... 35c each

10 Wings	4.75		
20 Wings	6.75	80 Wings	19.95
30 Wings	8.75	90 Wings	21.95
40 Wings	11.95	100 Wings	24.95
50 Wings	13.95	150 Wings	35.00
60 Wings	15.95	200 Wings	46.00
70 Wings	17.95	250 Wings	54.00

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Science & Technology

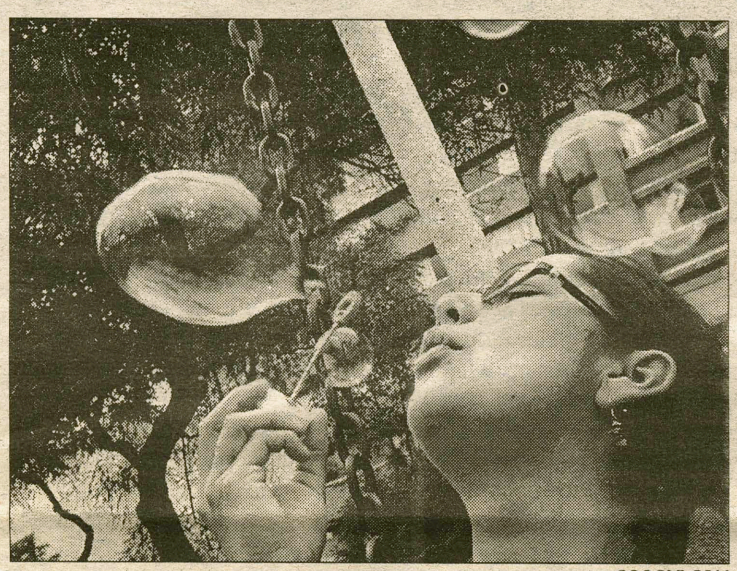
Alternative theories for the existence of beauty

Several branches of science examine the elegance of the eye pattern in the peacock plume

by Stephanie Lynn Higgins '04
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Believe it or not, understanding the interplay of the intense hues found in the eye of a peacock feather begins by grasping the basic principles of thin films. Take yourself back to those hot summer days of your childhood, when you used to use a magic wand and soapy water to make a string of bubbles. Each bubble contains a prismatic array of colors, swirling along the surface until *POP!* Its short life comes to an end.

This is the science of iridescence, which was discovered over three hundred years ago by Robert Boyle, a contemporary of Sir Isaac Newton. When two beams of monochromatic light (i.e. the same color light) from the same source meet, alternating dark and light lines, or fringes, are produced. However if the beams are not monochromatic (e.g. white light, which includes all wavelengths of the visible spectrum), certain wavelengths will be "cancelled out," causing the fringes to show colors.



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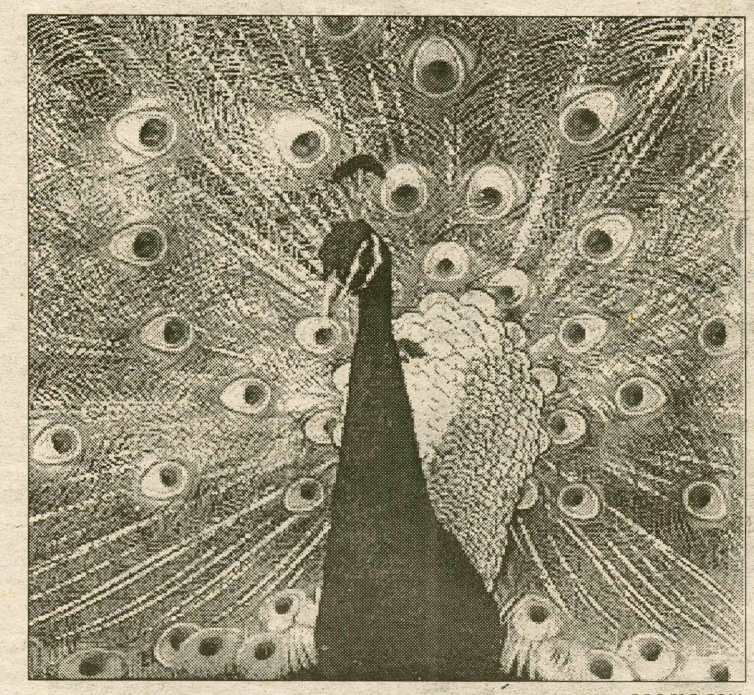
The physics of thin films and luminescence is ubiquitous.

So how does that explain the milky brightness that dances on the bubble's surface? Very thin films, such as those on bubbles, have two layers. The top layer reflects some of the incoming light, allowing the rest to travel through to the lower layer. The light from this second layer gets bent and is slowed down, decreasing the size of the waves and thus increasing the traveling distance within the film.

The light reflected from this layer rejoins the light reflected from the upper surface, however these two beams are "out of phase" and two different colors are seen simultaneously.

Increasing or decreasing film thickness will also affect the wavelength of light reflected off of the lower layer. It is this phenomenon that causes the bubble to look like a dynamic, living object: When a bubble is formed, it starts off having a uniform thickness, but gravity takes over almost immediately. This causes the soap to slide down the sides such that the density of each point on the surface is rapidly changing and every pure color of the rainbow glides by until the bubble can no longer support itself and pops.

Some of the most beautiful iridescent animal colors-such as the bright blues and green in peacocks-can also be explained by the science of iridescence. Jian Zi, a physicist at Fudan University in Shanghai, China and his colleagues recently gave theoretical and experimental descriptions of the structural forms responsible for the magnificent patterns in peacock plumes. "I was really astonished by the stunning beauty of the peacock's eye pattern. I asked myself, 'What structures could cause such beautiful colors?'" (Physics Today, Steven K. Blau, Jan. 2004).



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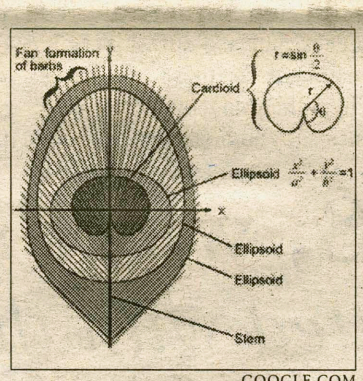
The NBC Peacock was excited to learn about his structure.

What excites Zi is the possibility that coloration arises not only from pigments, but from structural elements. Today, nanoscale architectures are commonly found ubiquitously in nature, both in its flora and fauna. Tiny photonic structures inside the peacock feathers differ in length and the way in which they are packed together, causing the light to reflect in different ways for each of the different structures.

In a highly simplified example, the structures that give rise to blue and green iridescence are confined to a narrow wavelength band, making the reflected colors extremely vivacious and dominant. Conversely, the structures associated with the yellow and brown feathers lie on a broad band so that a bright spectral hue cannot be observed.



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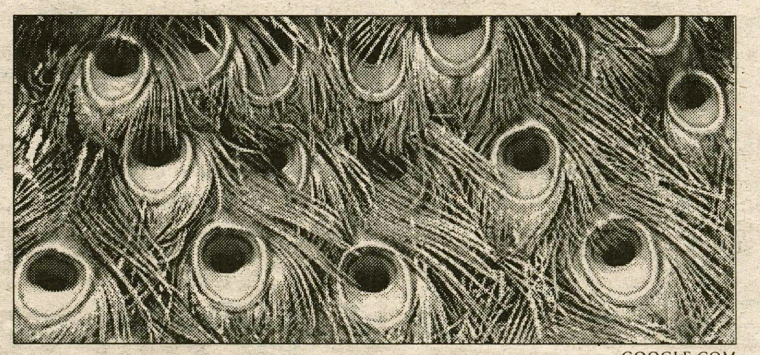
Mathematics explains the eye's pattern.

Scientists and mathematicians have also conducted extensive studies on the eye pattern itself, as it is this feature that gives the peacock's plume its particular beauty and intrigue. The 'pupil' (just to continue referring to the entire structure as an 'eye') is formed by a dark purple heart-shaped plane curve called a cardioid. The 'iris' is a blue ellipsoid surrounded by a pointed bronze ellipsoid which, in turn, is surrounded by one or two green fringes.

The many thousands of individual projections fringing the edges of the barbs of feathers are called barbules, which coordinate perfectly to produce the eye pattern. Barbs grow with minute and abrupt differences in the thickness of keratin films, which is dictated by instructions in the DNA.



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A blanket of peacock eyes.

Each type of barb prompts light to reflect at a different angle and wavelength, causing different colors to arise. The critical length of the sections of each barb can be determined mathematically by determining the points where the barbs intersect the curves.

What's even more fascinating are the evolutionary implications. Evolutionists have acknowledged that thin-film interference is a delicate and sophisticated mechanism. Thin-film interference in a feather requires there to exist both flat barbules and keratin layers of specific thickness. Evolution works by changing one parameter at a time, suggesting that thin-film interference cannot be produced by a process of evolution. For example, if a barbule suddenly became flat due to a genetic mutation in the DNA, thin-film interference would no longer occur.

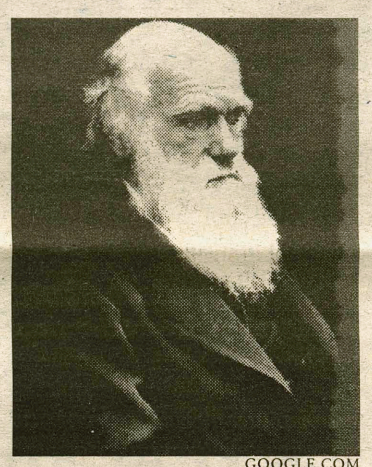
Additionally, getting the right thickness of keratin by chance is very difficult. If you consider 1,000 different layers of keratin with thickness' ranging from one micrometer to one millimeter, only one or two of those would produce thin-film interference. Consequently, it is unimaginable that a peacock could acquire both the right kind of barbule with the exact thickness of keratin simultaneously. Therefore the only method of producing iridescent feathers is to create a fully functioning flat thin-film barbule from the onset.

According to evolution, a complex pattern evolves through the accumulation of hundreds of genetic mistakes that occur over considerable lengths of time. However, patterns such as that of the peacock's eye are irreducible, i.e. they necessitate the simultaneuity of several features present in order for there to be a clear pattern. Mason, a scientist of the color of peacock feathers, puts it quite elegantly:

"The theory of thin films as the cause of iridescence... cannot but inspire one to marvel at the perfection of nature's method of producing these colours with such uniformity through successive generations, especially when a slight general variation in thickness of the films of the feathers of a bird, such as a peacock, would be enough to alter its coloration completely."

Mason marvels at how the peacock 'maintains' its delicate structures through successive generations, as well as its initial evolution.

Its bright iridescent colors and intricate patterns flaunted by the peacock as it fans its feathers are produced by very sophisticated mechanisms. Nevertheless, while most people may enjoy this exquisiteness, scientists may be plagued by the complexities that hide deep within the peacock's plume. For it was Darwin who once said, "The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me feel sick!"



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Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary theory, was both fascinated and tormented by the peacock.

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The beauty of the peacock's plume has been an inspiration in the fashion industry.

Cold weather tips: how to avoid hypothermia and related cold weather injuries

by Jennifer Ruch '06
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Extremely cold weather has been a serious concern throughout the northeastern United States in the past few weeks. Besides the perilous unplowed roads and sidewalks and falling icicles, the cold weather can take an especially hard toll on the body. Hypothermia and cold-weather injuries are serious concerns when the temperature drops below freezing and the wind chill is below zero. By understanding how we lose heat to the environment, and the signs and symptoms of hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot, and eye injuries, we can protect ourselves and, when necessary, treat these cold weather conditions.

There are four ways how a body loses heat to the environment. First, radiation is the loss of heat to the environment due to a temperature gradient below our internal equilibrium of 98.6 degrees Farenheit. Second, conduction is the loss of heat through direct contact with other objects for instance wet socks). Third, convection is the process of conduction where one object is in motion, such as wind chill, and the amount of heat lost to the environment is relative to still air. Finally, evaporation is heat lost from converting water from a liquid to a gas. One evaporative process that occurs in cold, dry air is insensible perspiration, which is the body's attempt to maintain a constant humidity level. Any evaporative process reduces moisture in the body, leading to dehydration, and makes a person more susceptible to hypothermia and other cold weather injuries.

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Whenever you are outside in the cold and snow, make sure to dress appropriately. Cold weather injuries happen very quickly.

Hypothermia is a decrease in the core body temperature to a level at which normal muscular and cerebral functions are impaired. It is caused by cold temperatures, improper clothing, wetness, fatigue, dehydration, and alcohol intake. Hypothermia can occur any time after the temperature drops below freezing. There are three forms of hypothermia. Mild hypothermia is when the body's temperature is 98.6 to 96 degrees F. Signs include shivering and inability to perform complex motor functions, such as zippering a coat, but the person can still walk and talk. Moderate hypothermia is when the body's temperature is 95 to 93 degrees F. The person will experience a dazed consciousness, loss of fine motor coordination, slurred speech, and violent shivering. Treatments for these two forms of hypothermia include reducing heat loss by adding layers of clothing, providing body to body contact and finding shelter. Also it is important to add fuels and fluids, and to avoid alcohol, caffeine and tobacco. Severe hypothermia is when the person reaches a life-threatening condition and the body temperature is 92 to 86 degrees F. Shivering occurs in waves, the person cannot walk, becomes pale, muscle rigidity begins, pupils dilate, and pulse rate decreases. The goal of treatment is to reduce heat loss immediately with a hypothermia wrap, to provide fuels and fluids, and to cover with multiple layers of wool clothing and keep the person dry.

Cold injuries result when tissue temperature is affected by changes in external and internal heat flow. Factors influencing cold weather injuries include wind chill, moisture, insulation, exposed skin, constricting garments, and dehydration. The body responds to cold weather by reducing circulation to that area to prevent further heat loss, leaving the area pale, cold and numb. Frostbite occurs when a person's skin is white and numbness kicks in. Treatment involves rewarming the area by immersing it in a 105 to 110 degrees F water bath for 25 to 40 mins. Once the area has been rewarmed, it should be wrapped in sterile gauze and protected from movement and cold.

Trench foot is caused by prolonged exposure of the foot to cool, wet conditions. The skin tissue begins to die because of a lack of oxygen and other nutrients. The skin is initially red with numbness, tingling pain and itching, then becomes pale and mottled, and finally changes to dark purple, grey or blue. Trench foot is treated by gentle rewarming and slight elevation. Cold weather can also be injurious to a person's eyes. One eye injury is freezing of the cornea, which is caused by forcing the eyes open during the strong winds without wearing goggles. Treatment consists of covering the eyes with warm compresses. Another eye injury is snowblindness, or sunburn of the eyes, leaving them feeling dry and irritated. This can be treated with cold compresses, a dark environment, and an effort not to rub the eyes.

Guidelines for cold weather prevention include dressing in multiple layers, finding shelter when you feel that you need to rewarm, drinking lots of warm, caloric fluids, and covering all parts of your body by wearing hats, gloves, scarves, thick socks, etc. It is also a good idea to walk with a "buddy" and monitor each other's faces, cheeks, ears, and so on. Following proper cold weather safty guidelinesis easier than suffering the consequences.

First came SARS, what's coming next?

Fear associated with the avian flu

by Katherine Brandli '07
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Another epidemic is brewing in Asia. Last year Asia was hit hard by SARS, and it appears that with the new year will come another malicious virus that has the possibility to become as deadly, the avian flu. The present virus, H5N1, is one of 15 known strains. The virus is transmitted through dry bird feces. As the feces are pulverized, people who inhale the virus become ill.

The avian flu is a virus that has recently jumped the animal-human line. The first cited case in a human was in Hong Kong in 1997. Despite its short appearance in humans, it is still a deadly virus. The symptoms of avian flu are like any other flu virus: fever, sore throat, and coughing. By the time doctors identify that it is the avian flu, antiviral medication is usually no help, especially in Asia, where many people do not have the resources to purchase the drugs. Eleven people have recently become infected with the avian flu in Asia. There have been eight reported deaths in the ten Asian nations that were struck with the disease. These nations have a brief time period to act before the avian flu becomes the next SARS.

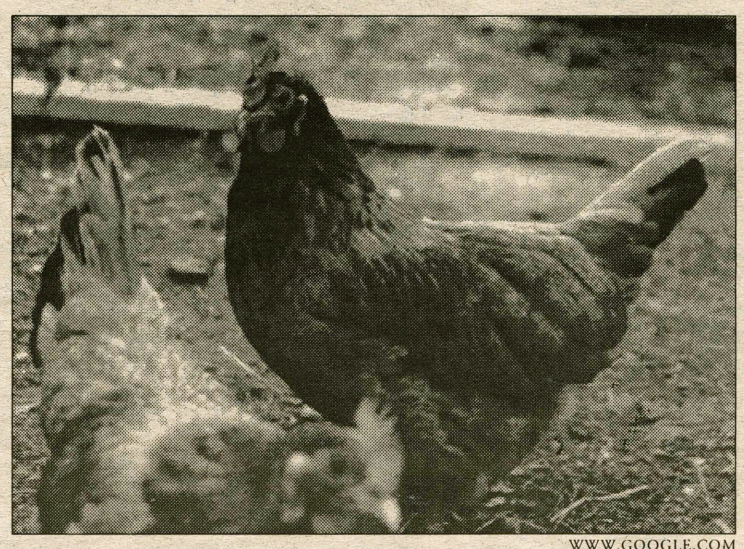
Officials met in Thailand last Wednesday to discuss ways to amend the situation. Members from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations, and several countries, including the United States, were present. WHO officials said that 11 pharmaceutical companies are able to help prepare a vaccine. However, the vaccine is still several months away from production. Despite its potentially high fatality rate, avian flu can be easily prevented with methods besides vaccinations.

Culling all infected birds in Asia will make the transmission of the disease difficult. Culling of the birds involves collecting birds in bags, dead or alive, and throwing them into pits to be buried. However, culling poultry is an expensive operation. Poultry farms are a huge business throughout Asia, so many diagnostic tests and protective gear are necessary to check for the strain and prevent further transmission. Culling chickens and ducks alone could greatly damage the Asian economy, because nations have limited funds to compensate farmers for their losses.

After the SARS virus, Asian health officials have acted quickly to prevent any further spreading. SARS taught officials that the loss of tourism due to the outbreak of a disease could cost the economy billions of dollars. Tourists are informed that it is safe to eat poultry products, but to avoid rural areas where poultry farms thrive.

There are various preventive measures that Asian nations are currently employing. Besides the culling of birds and ducks, there are strict guidelines for eating only fully cooked poultry products. Nations are also calling for the removal of poultry products from their shelves. Among them is Japan, which ordered all Thai poultry not to be sold.

The avian flu virus can not pass between humans, nor is it transferable through cooked poultry products. Health officials fear that the disease will infect people already ill with a human flu virus. The avian flu strain has a chance to then latch onto the human flu strain, mutate, and pass human to human.



WWW.GOOGLE.COM

Health officials in Asia alerted the public of a dangerous strain of the flu that is carried by birds.

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION? EMAIL JRUCH OR SHIGGINS.

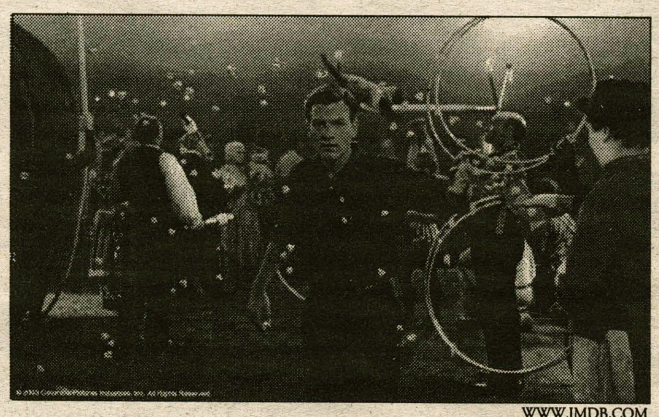
Arts & Entertainment

Big Fish: A Visual Masterpiece

Dan Horowitz '06 reviews the latest Tim Burton film

In modern society, cinema is vaguely considered high art. Other than a select group of film festivals, it is difficult to observe a work that is a true visual masterpiece. In my opinion, a film, in order to be considered significant, should have an impact on all who observe it. Although a movie can dramatically move an audience through a groundbreaking plot or unbelievable character acting, it is especially relevant when a film can truly astound viewers by the sheer intensity of the images on screen.

Director Tim Burton has made a career based on painting images on screen. Burton has been a Hollywood rebel since he began. When Burton first took helm of the camera, he brought his gothic visions to life. In *Batman*, Tim Burton gave a comic strip unparalleled energy. His portrayal of the Gotham City was remarkable, and the use of color perfectly accented the different good versus evil motifs. Burton's wild imagination and style made *Batman* an epic film filled with suspense and intrigue, elements that are often absent from modern action flicks. His 1990 film, *Edward Scissorhands*, is a momentous tour de force. The film is typical Burton: gothic and cold, yet emanating great feelings of both romance and loss. *Scissorhands* is a visual masterpiece, in which respecting audience members could almost melt in their seats watching the sheer beauty. Johnny Depp's character is Burton's "David" , a transient glimpse of cinematic zenith.



WWW.IMDB.COM

Tim Burton, who made Pee-Wee Herman seem creepy before he actually was, trades shadow and gloom for sunshine and flowers in *Big Fish*.

Recently, Burton abandoned his flagship gothic style in favor for a colorful homage to the importance of tall tales. *Big Fish* dips into the magnificence of an artist's palette, painting a rainbow of a film. At the same time, though, it stays true to Burton's roots through underlying aspects of love and loss. The premise is simple: Will Bloom's (Billy Crudup) whole childhood was grandiose, filled with beguiling "autobiographical" fantasy stories as told by his father, Ed Bloom (Albert Finney). Ed Bloom has a type-A personality, constantly monopolizing conversations through his tales. As Will grows, he becomes apathetic toward his father and the tales, eventually to such an extent that he moves to France, permanently leaving his family (including his mother, played by Jessica Lange) behind. After five years in Europe, Will returns to the States when news hits that his father has cancer. After this dramatic beginning, *Big Fish* truly begins. All of the tall tales are presented chronologically, as Will tries to finally understand his deathbed-

*see **Fish**, page 20*

Choir to perform *Bye Bye Birdie*

Clinton, NY - The Hamilton College Choir will present the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. in Wellin Hall, Schambach Center for Music and the Performing Arts.

RBUHSD.K12.CA.US

With music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Lee Adams, and book by Michael Stewart, *Bye Bye Birdie* opened on Broadway on April 14, 1960, and ran for 607 performances.

The plot revolves around rock and roll superstar Conrad Birdie and the complications that arise when his agent stages a publicity stunt on The Ed Sullivan Show in which he will kiss one lucky girl from Sweet Apple, Ohio, before he is drafted into the army. Key players in the musical include Albert Peterson, Conrad's agent, who is a very pleasant mild-mannered young man and Albert's faithful secretary, Rose Alvarez, who keeps him and Birdie moving forward in the world. Kim MacAfee is the teenager from Sweet Apple, Ohio, who wins the honor of the kiss. Hugo, a local boy who has just pinned Kim also enters the mix as a jealous boyfriend.

The cast includes Tom Morris as Conrad Birdie, Sarah Ziegler as Kim MacAfee, Julia Berger as Rose Alvarez, Mike O'Leary as Albert Peterson, Dan Leinung as Hugo, and Luke Vaughn and Katherine Hughes as Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee. This fully staged production of *Bye Bye Birdie* is performed by the Hamilton College Choir, and directed by G. Roberts Kolb. The performance runs Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $7 adult, $5 senior and students, and $3 Hamilton College students. To reserve tickets or for more information, call the performing arts ticket office at 859-4331 and leave a message.

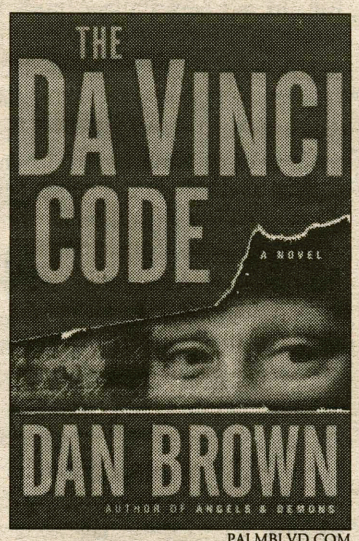
Book Review: *The DaVinci Code*

Alina Troya '04 discusses her thoughts on the blockbuster book

#1 last week on The New York Times Bestsellers list, which it has been on for 43 weeks total. *The Da Vinci Code* begins even before Chapter One. Author Dan Brown includes a page labeled "Fact," and it is there that he establishes what he has researched and found to be true. The fact concerns something called the Priory of Sion, its Grand Masters, and an organization known as Opus Dei. In the Prologue, Brown introduces the mystery aspect to his novel, in which Jacques Saunière, the curator of the Louvre Museum in Paris, is murdered by an albino monk named Silas. Before he dies, however, Sauniere manages to leave a message. He positions his body in such a way and marks the floor around him so as to make himself appear as Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing, "The Vitruvian Man." He also leaves a cryptic message in the form of an anagram and a famous set of numbers known as the Fibonacci sequence. This brings together the two main characters, and the hunt for his murderer and the motive behind it begins.

Robert Langdon, a symbology professor at Harvard, is called to the Louvre by the by the French police investigating the murder, and cryptologist Sophie Neveu, also Sauniere's neice, quickly arrives at the scene. Langdon soon finds that he himself is being investigated, but Sophie knows he is innocent. Through a number of close calls, the two find all of the information they need and escape from the museum. Sauniere left them a number of clues to follow, and they begin a journey that takes them through much of Paris, and eventually to London and across Europe. What they are in search of is not just a matter of solving the mystery of the curator's murder, as you will find that much more is at stake. As it turns out, Sauniere was a member of the Priory of Sion, a group dedicated to protecting the secret of the Holy Grail. Only the four highest members of the Priory actually know the location of the grail, and it seems to Langdon and Neveu that they are now the only people on earth that have the key to finding and protecting it, lest it get into the hands of the murderous albino monk and his master, member of the radical Catholic prelature known as Opus Dei.

The plot goes on to be more than just a murder mystery. The characters find themselves breaking codes and uncovering clues that may lead to the holy grail itself. What we learn, however, is that the grail is not a cup, and all of our illusions of what the grail means are dashed. At the heart of the story lies a vast array of theories, including things like a divine proportion, the sacred feminine, the Knights Templar, pentacles, sex rituals, stories of Mary Magdalene, and even the reason why Mona Lisa smirks as she does. Brown includes a large compilation of historical and religious speculation, in what amounts to a completely intriguing world view and conspiracy theory that dates back to the time and the life of Christ himself and goes through the history of the Roman Catholic Church up to the present day. Brown does an amazing job of keeping the reader hooked, as every chapter leaves you with something unsolved, so you just have to keep turning the page. The characters he has created are easy to like, so we end up rooting for them all the way, and the riddles, twists and turns Brown takes us through are simply amazing. You will certainly want to take a tour through the places they go in Europe to see the things the book talks about for yourself, especially the Louvre.



PALMBLVD.COM

A glowing review in *The Spectator* is sure to give *The Da Vinci Code*'s sales a real shot in the arm.

The Da Vinci Code is not just a novel; it's a phenomenon. Just type the title into a Google search and you will find a plethora of information on the book, the author, and certainly the theories it implies and arguments it has spurred. ABC ran a one-hour special on the book, *Good Morning America* and Oprah have talked about it, and there are discussion groups popping up all over the place to both figure out the mystery and ask questions about the book's historical and religious implications. Everyone is wondering how true the theories of the book could be. Some websites simply praise Brown for his inventiveness and creativity, but others will bash the novel based on the grounds that its theories rely on false information. In fact, there are a number of things in the book that simply are not true historically, such as certain parts of what Brown says about the history of France and the Church under Constantine. Also, there are a number of other books, some written years ago, with the same basic premise, so it is interesting that Brown's book is so popular while the others did not make nearly as many headlines. In any case, the mystery is engaging and the theories are fascinating, so it's worth a read for those reasons alone. In addition to *The Da Vinci Code*, Brown's first book introducing the character of Robert Langdon, *Angels and Demons*, concerning a mystery within the Vatican, is also becoming more popular, as is *Digital Fortress*, a more high-tech mystery.

The final *Sex and the City* season begins

Megan Semerod '06 talks about the first few episodes before the finale

"When you're tired, you take a nappa, you don't move to Napa. " After it's sixth season, HBO's *Sex and the City* is coming to a close in four short thirty-minute episodes.

In the past 12 episodes, the four city gals' lives have changed greatly; however, the only constant in the entire series, their friendship, has remained the same, surviving many challenges.

The last season of the show started as a growing-up period for the four, throwing them more tribulations than lost Manolos and lost loves. As the captive audience grew older and wiser through their antics, it is apparent that these four characters also did a great deal of their own growing up. So as the clock ticks with the last episodes ready for viewing, we can't help but wonder whether each of their wishes, dreams and fantasies will be realized and fulfilled in time. Take, for example, Charlotte leaving her Christian past and converts to Judaism for her divorce lawyer, Harry, and for another chance at motherhood. Harry's proposal was much more romantic than Trey's "Alrighty" response to Charlotte's marriage suggestion in the third season. After their wedding, the first of the season, the two try to have a child, resulting in the tragedy of a miscarriage and a deeply saddened Charlotte. Eventually, Charolette imposes her maternal skills on Elizabeth Taylor Goldenblatt, but the new dog leaves viewers with the question: "Will this be enough for Charlotte or will the dream of a child be satisfied in the next four episodes?"

Then there is Miranda, who still works at perfecting her mothering skills with Brady. After a brief affair with a doctor in her building, she realizes that it isn't his love she wants, but Steve's. Following Brady's first birthday party, she finally lets her guard down and admits her feelings to Steve and the two begin a romance again. The romantic duo walks down the aisle in the second wedding of the season. In contrast with Charlotte and Harry's, Miranda's wedding was very non-traditional - just like her.

NEWS.BBC.CO.UK

The Whoresome Foursome bid farewell to audiences this year.

Samantha is the character that appeared to mature the most in the past season. She's been battling Smith (Absolut Hunk) to not be her boyfriend. After a brief moment of insanity, Samantha found herself with Richard Wright, the last steady man in her life, and left Smith watching from the sidelines. However, this indiscretion seems to make Samantha realize how much she cares for Smith. In an attempt to look younger for Smith, Samantha decides it's time for a little plastic surgery; however, a cancerous lump was found and Samantha was faced with her own mortality. Following the first long-term illness that any of the friends had to deal with, Samantha battles with the emotions of cancer and with trying to keep a level of normalcy with a variety of wigs. Smith shows his true devotion to her as the pair shave their heads, both loosing their long blonde locks.

Big makes another appearance in Carrie's life, this time with news much worse than his decision to move to a vineyard in Napa. He's back in the city for an angioplasty, another addition to the women accepting the reality of aging and realizing that they're not immortal. But his appearance doesn't settle the series long standing question : "Will Carrie and Big end up together?" Carrie eventually realizes that time (and the show) is passing, and Big may never be quite what she needs. Instead, Carrie falls for an artist, Aleksandr Petrovsky, who reveals to her a life she never had before, complete with romance and an Oscar de la Renta gown. She wonders, though, if she can handle the "ick factor" of the romance. The relationship also faces another bump when Alek mentions that he doesn't want any more children and Carrie must decide if she's willing to abandon that unresolved issue for Alek.

So there you have it. With only four episodes left before we have to say goodbye to the four friends and Big, certain moments shine and certain wisdom surfaces. While the women didn't always make the wisest choices in men, they always realized that they should never settle. "Some people are settling down, some people are settling and some people refuse to settle for anything less than butterflies." Sure it's fantasy, yes it's just TV, and the glitz and glamour are not realistic. Yet, somewhere, we can relate and we'll reckon with our own concerns as we watch this "fabulous four" take a final bow.

A Concluding Tease:
Former production intern on Season Six, Whit Rothe '05, says about the season: "I think that the conclusion of the show is handled in a very realistic manner; it's not trite or cliche....maybe slightly unfulfilling, but worthwhile. Fans of the show will enjoy it."

Academy Award Nominations

Best Picture:
The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
Lost in Translation
Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World
Mystic River
Seabiscuit

Best Director:
Sofia Coppola
Clint Eastwood
Peter Jackson
Kátia Lund and Fernando Meirelles
Peter Weir

Best Actor:
Johnny Depp
Ben Kingsley
Jude Law
Bill Murray
Sean Penn

Best Supporting Actor:
Alec Baldwin
Benicio Del Toro
Djimon Hounsou
Tim Robbins
Ken Watanabe

Best Actress:
Keisha Castle-Hughes
Diane Keaton
Samantha Morton
Charlize Theron
Naomi Watts

Best Supporting Actress:
Shohreh Aghdashloo
Patricia Clarkson
Marcia Gay Harden
Holly Hunter
Renee Zelwegger

"*Big Fish* is marvelous... an awe-inspiring visual symphony."

from ***Fish****, page 19*

ridden father, in whom he has never put any trust.

Big Fish's structure rotates between the retelling of the tales (which Ed Bloom claims are actual figments of his grand existence), and the colder scenes of reality. However, the reality is merely transitional, and does not play nearly as significant a role as the fantasy tales, in which *Big Fish* truly shines. The tall tales are wildly entertaining while allegorical and profound. Not only are they examples of beautiful filmmaking, but they display Tim Burton's directing at its very best.

There is one scene in the movie in which young Ed Bloom (Ewan McGregor) stumbles upon the hidden town of Spectre. The town, meant to convey ideas of Heaven, is portrayed in such a meticulous fashion that it would be difficult for each member of the audience to keep his or her jaw closed. The town is picturesque: white picket fences line the houses on top of emerald green grass, an old-fashioned white church is the town's centerpiece, and a telephone wire hangs the shoes of all the town's visitors and citizens (illustrating the idea that the town is the ultimate of life's destinations). All the town citizens act in unison; their movements, clothes, words, and actions are perfectly crafted by Burton, so that the scene seems like a ballet. The Spectre scene is a perfect example of the rest of the tall tale depictions. Although the art direction is absolutely flawless, and the town is a metaphoric Heaven; the art directors have enabled it to still be slightly eerie. The overall effect is totally sublime.

Although all the tales depicted on screen are wonderful, I will only mention one more, so as not to ruin the surprise of the visual awe *Big Fish* produces. Ed Bloom's quest for love is an unbelievably genuine tale. Bloom describes his encounter with a girl at the circus, Sandra (Alison Lohman), as an utter example of love at first sight. From that fleeting glimpse, Bloom engages in a superb journey to find and marry Sandra. His quest culminates as Bloom stands outside Sandra's sorority house begging for her love. As Sandra opens her top-floor window, looking down at the hopelessly romantic Bloom, the camera follows her line of vision. It reveals Bloom standing in a bed of daffodils, which he has planted across the campus in order to stimulate her affection. The scene, beyond all else in the movie, is visually magnificent. The deep yellow color of the flowers glistens on screen, perfectly accenting the brilliant romantic mood Burton has set. In the new millennium, romance is a dime-a-dozen. Superficiality has become the standard for Hollywood romances, in which films depict hackneyed stories or portray characters between whom the chemistry is most obviously absent. The romance in *Big Fish* is anything but. Though over-the-top, McGregor and Lohman's performance is astounding together, brining to life elements of deep adoration that echo the pitch-perfect romance in *Edward Scissorhands*.

On performance lines, most of the actors in *Big Fish* excel. Albert Finney shines as the older Ed Bloom. His performance evokes pity, as the audience watches an imprisoned mind as Bloom dies. Ewan McGregor, who has delivered mediocre shows in his recent roles, steps up a level to play the younger Bloom. McGregor's performance is believable as he illustrates Bloom's great determination and talents. However, arguably the best roles in *Big Fish* are brought to life through the supporting characters. Jessica Lange's acting is novel and pure; her performance is a great counterbalance to the wild imagination of Finney and the somber bitterness of Crudup. Danny Devito provides entertaining comic relief as the conniving ringleader, Amos Calloway. Steve Buscemi shines as a small townie turned confused bank robber. Helena Bonham Carter is also great on screen as the town witch. The only performance that is lacking is Billy Crudup's Will Bloom. Crudup's performance is slow and bland, which is unfortunate since his role is meant to complement the great actors.

Just like Billy Crudup's mediocre performance sticks out compared to the plethora of great acting recitals, *Big Fish* is not without obvious flaws. The film's structure, rotating between reality and fantasy, is creative and entertaining. It is not, however, efficient or cohesive. The film wanders through the tall tales, each emanating significant morals and values. However, toward the end, *Big Fish* does little to tie these ideas together. Although Burton comments on the importance of whimsy and romance in a person's life, the film's conclusion tends to feel incomplete or rushed. Furthermore, the film is disappointing on several occasions, especially when the normally vibrant script lags. Observed mostly in the transitional reality scenes, the conversations are plain and dull. Though these conversations might keep the audience yearning for the wonder of the tall tales, a bump in the screen writing is not an acceptable vehicle for suspense.

However, despite its shortcomings, *Big Fish* is a triumph. Tim Burton displays the reason why he is one of today's top directors, as he weaves together genuine romance, captivating settings, and orchestrates a slew of magnificent performances. Burton proves that film is not an unsophisticated medium for generating profit, and that, in rare occasions, a work can truly mirror a masterpiece of fine art. Almost every scene, track of the musical score, setting, and character in *Big Fish* is marvelous, coming together to create an awe-inspiring visual symphony. And though it beats around the bush, *Big Fish* eventually reminds the audience that life, or the imitation of life, can truly be magic. Burton tells, while dazzling the audience, that even though tall tales are fantasy, one can find real truth within them. And *Big Fish* is the epitome of a tall tale, a captivating cinematic conglomerate of life and imagination, that truly shows how a fantasy tale can not only engage its audience, but also teach it new lessons on reality.

BADASS MOVIE REVIEWS: THE USUAL SUSPECTS

Tim Mudie '05 has returned from Ireland with a golden pot of badassity

There is no Keyser Soze. However, there are still Badass Movie Reviews. Yes, I realize that I claimed I would keep up with writing them while I was in Ireland, but I failed. I was lazy and drunk, and I have no excuse. My apologies to my three or four faithful readers. My apologies also for this review. Apparently, I still have a bit of lazy left in me, and I saved this review until the last minute. In fact, I think I might have even reviewed this movie at some point last year. If I did, I apologize again. Of course, I also doubt that anyone would notice or call me on it if I have reviewed it before. But I guarantee that, if in fact I did review this movie before, this version will be even more badass. It will be a step beyond badass. It will be so badass that the word "badass" doesn't even come close to describing it. Why is this? Because *The Usual Suspects* is one of the most ultra-super-wicked-badass flicks ever. That's right: ever.

I still remember when I was a young lad, watching The Usual Suspects for the first time. It was a true father/son bonding experience. After all, what better way is there to bond than over mutual respect for absolute badassery. And, like I said, there is little, if anything, in this world more badass than *The Usual Suspects*. Not even myself, and I'm pretty damn badass.

IMDB.COM

Take a look at that lineup and tell me who the real badass among them is. Picked one yet? Well, guess what it was a trick question. They are all really, really badass.

(Editor's note: Tim Mudie is in no way badass. The Spectator neither condones nor supports such erroneous statements.)

The basic idea of the movie is simple: five criminals (the titular usual suspects) are rounded up after a robbery. While being held in prison they become buddies and decide to rob some more stuff. Why? Well, they're thieves, I suppose. It's just what they do. Not to mention that they are all incredibly badass. Of course.

After stealing a bunch of crap, the five men, played with aplomb and badassitude by Gabriel Byrne, Kevin Spacey, Benicio del Toro, some Baldwin, and Kevin Pollack, find that they have messed with the wrong man. That man: Keyser Soze, the most badass of the badass criminals. And because criminals are by definition badass, that makes him badass to the third degree... I think... I failed Q-Lit....

Anyway, there is all sorts of intrigue, shooting and hilarious lines (none of which I can write here without severe editing, which I am in no mood to do). And then.... there's the ending. Arguably the most badass ending to a movie ever, this will blow you away. Seriously, you will be absolutely covered in gooey, sticky badassness, and you will love it. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you about this, the most high priest of badass. And so, I have to leave you now. I'm still lazy from Ireland, so this week was a halfass badass. I should be hit into shape by next week. This has been Badass Movie Reviews. Next Week: *Bring It On Again*.

The Career Center's

SPRING 2004 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

To schedule an appointment or to ask a question, call us at x4346!

Monday – Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm (closed from noon till 1) and evenings by appointment.

Please check the Career Center Web site (**www.hamilton.edu/college/career**) for the most current schedule

Preparing Materials for ECCD NY	**Monday, Feb. 2nd**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Careers in Finance	**Monday, Feb. 2nd**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Preparing Materials for ECCD NY	**Tuesday, Feb. 3rd**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
The Importance of Internships**	**Wednesday, Feb. 4th**	**12:00 pm**	**KJ 222**
Senior Job Search: Visual & Performing Arts	**Thursday, Feb. 5th**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Interviewing Skills	**Thursday, Feb. 12th**	**7:30 pm**	**Science Aud.**
Cover Letter Writing for Beginners	**Wednesday, Feb. 18th**	**4:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
The Importance of Internships**	**Tuesday, Feb. 24th**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Resume Writing for Beginners	**Wednesday, Feb. 25th**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Resume Writing for Beginners	**Tuesday, March 2nd**	**4:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Interviewing Skills	**Wednesday, March 3rd**	**7:30 pm**	**Red Pit**
Pre-Law Info. Session	***[date/ time/ place TBD]***		

****please sign up on eRecruiting because there will be PIZZA at this workshop!**

Women's basketball loses three straight

by Paul Kibbe '05
SPORTS WRITER

After playing strong basketball and winning four of their last five games, the women's basketball team seemed to hit a roadblock on January 23rd thanks to UCAA opponent Union College. The roadblock turned into a three game losing streak in the league for the Continentals, the final two losses coming against Skidmore and William Smith. The three losses dropped the Hamilton team to 1-4 in the UCAA and puts a lot of pressure on the women to win big games late in the season if they hope to have any chance of making the playoffs.

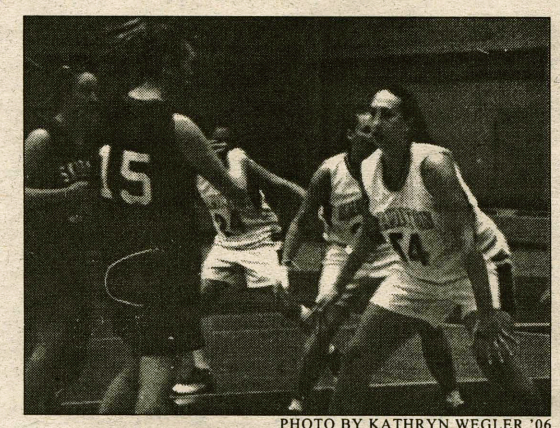


PHOTO BY KATHRYN WEGLER '06

Holly Erick (54) holding her ground.

When asked about the effects of the three game skid on the team and the rest of the season, Liz Longley '07 replied, "I believe that the team feels we need to pull together and perform better overall. These losses could actually be a positive turning point in the season because now there is a lot of pressure to win every game. I feel that if everyone believes we can win then this season could end better than expected."

Union was one of the strongest teams the Hamilton women had seen thus far in the season and were just too much for the Continentals. Union jumped out to an early lead 33-21 after one half, and although the Hamilton women played much better in the second half, improving their field goal percentage from 32% in the first half to 54% in the second, the Union team never let up and did not allow Hamilton to get back in the game. With the easy 76-57 win over Hamilton, the Union team improved to 4-0 in league play and 11-2 overall, while Hamilton dropped to 1-2 in the UCAA and 7-4 overall.

"I expected Union to be a tough game. Every year I've played against them they've been a quick running team. However, I don't think they measure up to previous years, and we definitely didn't play to our potential. We can't afford to give up easy shots against a team that doesn't return the favor," commented Holly Erick '04 when asked about the tough loss to Union.

Jess Gorman '06 came off the bench and dropped 16 points, including four three-point field goals, and also had four assists. Holly Erick also excelled for the Continentals off the bench, scoring 14 points while pulling down eight rebounds in a losing effort. The only starter to score in double figures was Kim Beevers '06, who had 10 points and five rebounds on the night. The other four Hamilton starters managed only six points combined in the game.

The following afternoon, the team played another UCAA team again at home; this time the opponent was Skidmore College of Saratoga, NY. The women rebounded well from the loss the previous night and were in the game the entire time. Hamilton trailed by only a basket at halftime, 32-30, and managed to take the lead mid-way through the second half. Skidmore regained the lead thanks to a 16-2 run late in the second half, which saw them back up 64-55 with time running out. With just under a minute left, Hamilton showed their heart and came back to trail by only one point thanks to an Allie Massaro '07 lay-up, but they could never regain the lead and Skidmore went on to win 73-68 by way of free throws with time running out.

This past Tuesday, Hamilton hosted yet another league opponent, William Smith College, the results of which were no different from their previous two home league games. As in the Skidmore game, Hamilton played strong the whole time and could have won, but fell just short as time ran out. Hamilton went into the half down only two points, 33-31. The came out fast in the second half and took the lead 53-46, but for the second game in a row, a run late in the second half saw the Continentals trailing again with time running out. The 18-4 run left Hamilton down 64-57 and although they fought hard to come back, an errant pass late in the game by Jill Regan '07 resulted in a turnover and two huge free throws that iced the victory for William Smith who went on to win 68-63. The loss dropped the Hamilton women to 1-4 in the league and 7-6 overall for the season.

Hamilton got good games from all five starters, with Holly Erick, Missy Nelson '05, and Kim Beevers all finishing with 10 points. Erick also pulled down five rebounds; Nelson grabbed six while adding four assists, four steals and a blocked shot. Erin Daugherty '07 came off the bench and played very well on both ends of the court for the Continentals, scoring eight points, while assisting on three other baskets and adding two steals defensively.

Commenting on the close losses to Skidmore and William Smith, Kim Beevers said, "Great teams and great players find a way to make the big plays; when push came to shove we didn't hit the big shots and step up the intensity when we needed to."

Hamilton continues their seven game home stand with two more league games this weekend. They host Clarkson University on Friday night, January 30th and then take on UCAA powerhouse, St. Lawrence, Saturday afternoon, January 31st. Both games are very important for the Continentals whose hopes of making the UCAA tournament are fading with every league loss. Two wins this weekend would improve their league record to 3-4, putting them right back in the playoff hunt.

Swim team falls to Colgate and Amherst

by Andrew Dassori '07
SPORTS WRITER

This past week the swim team came upon hard times, facing cross-town, Division I rival Colgate on Friday, followed by a particularly strong NESCAC team in Amherst. Though they battled valiantly, the team came up short in each outing, but not without some level of satisfaction.

The men's team came very close to beating Colgate's Division I program, falling to them by just 11 points, 125 to 114. This slim margin was largely due to fine swimming across the board and wins by Andrew Saunders '05 in the 50 and 100 meter freestyles, Jeff Wilson '04 in the 200 I.M., Steve Morris '06 in the 200 breaststroke, and Mike Salmon '06 in the 3 meter diving competition. Also, the Hamilton men's 400 medley and 400 freestyle teams beat their Colgate counterparts for both the A and B divisions of each. Unfortunately, this was not quite enough to upset Colgate, as the end result was not in Hamilton's favor.

The women's team fell to Colgate by a slightly larger margin, as they lost their meet by 55, 149 to 94. Still, this match was not without its highlights. The Hamilton women, like the men, won the 400 medley relay in both categories. In addition, Suzie Wilson '06, Nicole Knapp '05, and Brittany Achin '05 all came away with wins against the Colgate women. Wilson won the backstroke, Knapp won the 200 I.M. and Butterfly, and Achin, with perhaps the most notable performance of the weekend, set a Bristol Pool record with her winning time of 2:25.29 in the 200 breaststroke. While freshmen Christine Mays '07 and Samantha Pitter '07 were "amazed" and "thrilled" by Achin's performance, coach Davis felt a similar, more detailed admiration. According to Davis, "Brittany's 200 breast was the swim of the year so far. She broke a pool record in that event that was set at a NYS Collegiate Championship meet, so it's a shaved time that she eclipsed - really impressive." He added, "I think it's an exciting indication of where she'll be with some rest and with some competition. She has trained harder than ever and her focus is extraordinary - this said, she'll no doubt be a force to be reckoned with at the NCAA level. I am so proud of Brittany's work this season and know that the best is still to come." This was definitely the highlight of the afternoon, leading the team into preparation for another challenging meet the very next day.

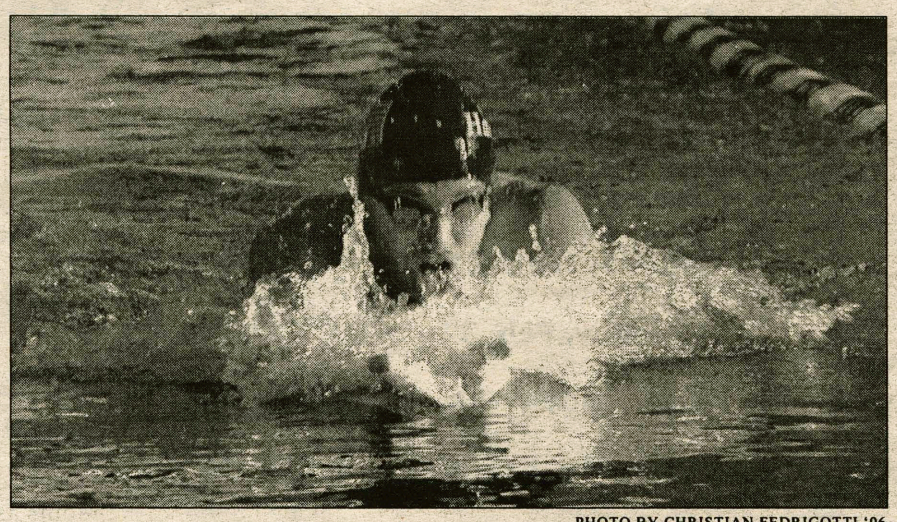


PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN FEDRIGOTTI '06

Men's swimming travels to Union and Le Moyne this weekend before the NESCAC championships in late February.

The Colgate meet was followed by a meet against Amherst College, one of the NESCAC's perennial powerhouses when it comes to swimming. Both the Amherst men and women swimmers came in without a loss, and unfortunately for the Continental swimmers, continued their winning streaks.

The men's swimmers suffered a 166 to 122 loss to a very talented Amherst team. Among the highlights were first place finishes by Kevin Thompson '04, Lawrence, Salmon and Saunders. Thompson, Lawrence and Saunders won the 200, 100, and 50 freestyles respectively, while Salmon cleared house, winning both the 1 and 3 meter diving events. Overall, the team swam well as a unit, posting various 2nd and 3rd place finishes in addition to these wins, but this was not enough to match Amherst in their showdown.

The women's team also fell to Amherst, 172 to 126, yet still, like the men, managed to capture a few first place finishes. The two stars of the day were Knapp and Achin, who accounted for all of Hamilton's first-place finishes with two a piece. Knapp won the 400 I.M. and the 100 backstroke, while Achin won the 50 and 100 meter breaststrokes just one day after her record-breaking performance.

Though the weekend was not filled with victories, the Hamilton swimmers are already looking past their losses toward their upcoming meets against Union and Le Moyne. These events will take place away from Hamilton on January 31st and February 6th, but the Continentals will come home for their final home meet against Rensselaer on February 7th. According to Coach Davis, "I think one of our biggest challenges will be to swim well on the road - we are really in a situation now where we are doing awesome things here in our home pool - we need to feel as confident traveling and performing away from Hamilton and being that competitive when we are at the NESCAC championships." After their road trips, they will be looking for a lot of support, especially for those seniors who will be competing in their final home meet, so we hope to see you there.

Superbowl Sunday: David versus Goliath?

by Michael Osborne '05
SPORTS EDITOR

On Sunday, February 1, 2004, all eyes will turn to Reliant Stadium in the city of Houston, TX. Houston, located in the central part of Texas, is a city where cab drivers make their money driving men between the strip clubs. However, for this week, the cab drivers of Houston will be able to make their money another way. They will be able to drive thousands of fans back and forth between the events that make up Superbowl week, as it's the site of Superbowl XXXVIII.

As almost everyone knows, two unheralded teams will meet for the right to call themselves Superbowl Champions. Nobody picked these teams to make it this far, and matter of factly, nobody really wanted to see these two teams in this game. These two teams are the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers. These two teams have no superstars, no players only playing for the money, nor any players with behavioral problems. The players who make up the two teams are in it for the love of the game. Who will win, nobody knows, but here is a breakdown of the two teams.

The Carolina Panthers come into Sunday's game after upsets of Dallas, St. Louis, and Philadelphia. The Panthers were able to upset both St. Louis and Philadelphia on the road, with the latter coming in the NFC Championship game. The Panthers, who some compare to the Patriots of 2001, came into this season after a 1-15 record in 2001 and a 7-9 record in 2002. This year, Carolina, led by head coach John Fox, won the NFC South Division. The Panthers, similar to the Patriots, pride themselves on defense. The unit is led by their defensive linemen of Julius Peppers, Brentson Buckner, and Mike Rucker. These three have led a defense that ranked 8th in the league in total defense. However, this post-season, the Panthers secondary has stolen the spotlight. Ricky Manning Jr. led the defensive effort in the NFC Championship game by picking off Donovan McNabb three times. Not to be outdone, the Panthers offense is riding high. The group, led by undrafted quarterback Jake Delhomme and workhorse runningback Stephen Davis, will give the Patriots all they can handle. The Panthers will look to run the ball right at the Patriots, while the Patriots will try to force the Panthers to go to the air.

The New England Patriots, in this writer's view, comes in to Sunday's game as the best team in the NFL. The team rides into Sunday on the heels of a 15 game winning streak. Much of the credit for this team has been given to head coach Bill Belichick, offensive coordinator Charlie Weis, defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, and Director of player personnel, Scott Pioli. The game plans that these men have come up with this season week- in and week-out have given the team a chance to win every game. While Belichick has been criticized for his game day attire, no real football fan can criticize him for his mastery of the game. The players of this team have risen to the occasion every week, and have overcome all obstacles presented to them. The team, led by quarterback Tom Brady, who in this past week was a guest of Laura Bush at the State of the Union address, has overcome more injuries to starters than any other team in the league.

Brady, who defines the word "leader," has led an offense that is not considered great, but that scores enough points every week to be victorious. The offensive is also led by wide receivers Troy Brown, Deion Branch, David Givens, running back Antowain Smith, and a solid, yet unheralded, offensive line.

However, this team, like the Panthers, wins and loses with its defense. The unit is led by All-pro team members, Ty Law, Rodney Harrison, and Richard Seymour. The unit uses different schemes and plays to confuse opponents, and is considered the best defense in the NFL. If the game comes down to the last seconds, the Patriots have a proven hero in placekicker Adam Vinatieri. Vinatieri has proven in the past that he is clutch when the game is on the line. He won Superbowl XXXVI with a last second fieldgoal, he kicked the game-winning fieldgoal in the AFC Divisional Game against the Titans, and he kicked five field goals to put the Patriots in this year's Superbowl.

Superbowl XXXVIII will not be a high-scoring affair. It will not be a game that features a lot of superstars. However, it will be a defensive struggle. It will be a game that will still have the tension and anxiety that is associated with the Superbowl.

It will still be watched by people all over the world, as Superbowl Sunday has pretty much become a national holiday. Also, Superbowl XXXVIII will be won by the New England Patriots, the best team in the NFL for the second time in three years. PATRIOTS 24, CAROLINA 10.

Track and field disposes of Nazareth with ease

Kyle Graham '06 breaks school record in pole vault to lead the Conts to victory

by Matt Bradley '07
SPORTS WRITER

The Hamilton College Indoor Track Teams emerged victorious once again this season, defeating Nazareth College in Margaret Bundy Scott Field House on January 25. The Continentals easily defeated the Nazareth Golden Flyers following several exceptional performances last week. The men's squad earned 131 total points, greatly overshadowing the athletes from Nazareth, who managed to score only 25. The women were also successful, earning 86 total points, edging Nazareth, who earned 45.

Last Sunday proved to be an excellent day for individual performances by Hamilton athletes. Most notably, Kyle Graham '06 broke the school's previous pole vaulting record of 4.11 meters. Graham jumped a height of 4.14 meters, earning him the new record, first place in the event, and a qualification for the New York State Collegiate Track and Field Championships. "It's been my goal to break that record since last year," states Graham. "It was amazing to finally do it, but by no means am I satisfied." Graham attributes much of his success to his positional coach, Jerry Tine. Graham continues, "Coach [Tine] challenges me everyday; He's phenomenal. He is definitely the best coach I've had in any sport."

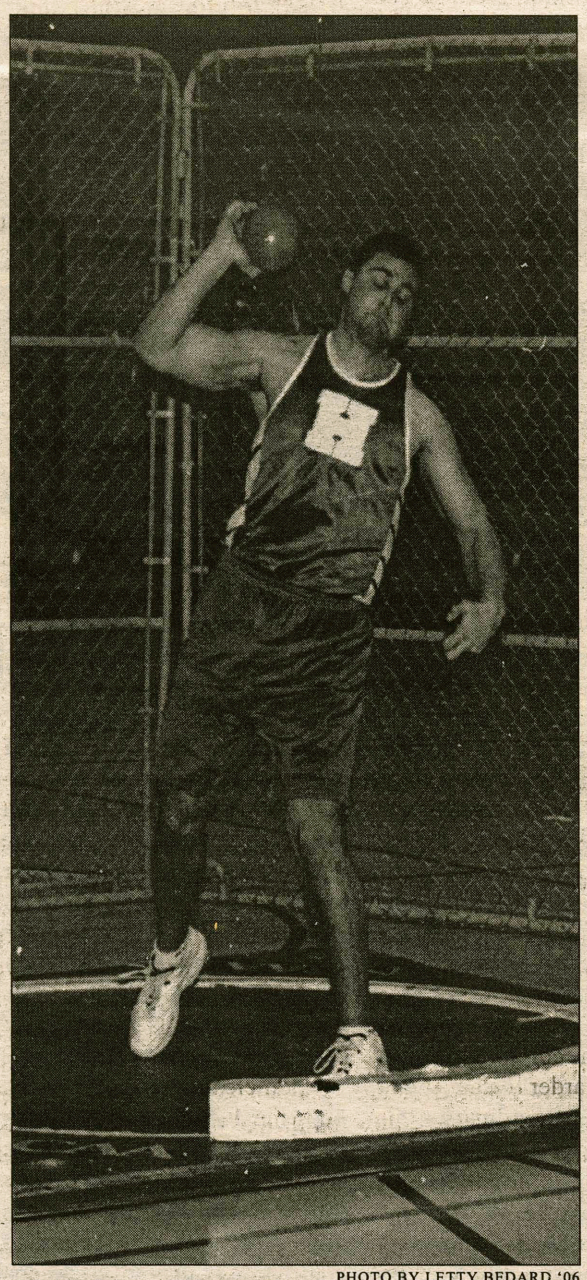


PHOTO BY LETTY BEDARD '06

Junior Craig Cammarata launches the shotput on Saturday afternoon.

Two of Hamilton's female athletes had noteworthy performances as well. Kara Feigeles '07 and Allison Nichols '06 won two events each, making them the main contributors to the Hamilton win last Sunday. Feigeles placed first in both the 55-meter dash, with a time of 8.32 seconds, and the 200-meter dash, with a time of 30.72 seconds. Nichols took first in her field events, winning the shot put and the 20-pound weight throw, with distances of 9.64 and 9.76 meters respectively.

Many other women had solid performances in the recent meet as well. Distance proved to be the women's strongest category. Sarah Downey '07 took first in the 800-meter event with a time of 2:36.30. Keira Moore '06 won the 1000-meter race, clocking in at 3:24.21 and Katie Riposta '06 placed first in the 3,000-meters with a time of 12:05.04. In addition to the standout individual performances by the Hamilton women, the squad also beat out Nazareth in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 11:27.86. "Everyone came together really well during our last meet," says Downey. "A lot of people think it's an individual sport, but when you have the right chemistry, everyone performs at their best."

The men's squad had many individual standouts as well. In addition to Graham's record-breaking performance, many of his peers achieved success. Hamilton earned first place in numerous different events. NYSCTFC-bound Steve Butterhof '05 improved on his personal best in the shot put and threw it for an outstanding 14.14 meters. In addition, Bob Group '07 took first in the long jump, triple jump, and the high jump events.

The men were just as successful in the track events. Captain Olamide Harrison won both the 55- and 200-meter dashes with times of 6.71 and 22.92 seconds respectively. Rich Schwam '06 took first in the 400-meter run with a time of 54.51 seconds. Jesse Gaylord '06 earned a time of 1:11.59 in the 500-meter run and Chris Dunn won the 1,000-meter event, clocking in at 2:37.90. Additionally, Rob Taylor '07 placed first in the 3,000-meter event with a time of 9:50.69.

Both the men's and women's teams have been extremely successful so far this season. The most difficult teams they will face this season, however, are yet to come. "We've done really well this year, but it has been against lower caliber teams," comments the freshman heartthrob sprinter Scotty Chatham. "The true test of the team's character will be during the remainder of the season."

The indoor track squad will travel to Canton, New York, on Saturday, January 31st, to compete against UCAA rival Saint Lawrence University. While many of the members of both squads have already qualified for the NYSCTC meet later this season, several more athletes from the men's and women's teams still are looking to earn a bid to the Championships, to be held on February 27th.

Sports

Men's basketball dominates Union with defense, 74-57

by Michael Proia '05
SPORTS WRITER

Men's basketball Head coach Tom Murphy has always placed a premium on defense, and he knows that this year's team needs to play better than they have the last few games if they want to make a run at the NCAA tournament. The Continentals (11-4) allowed 86 points in an overtime loss the Skidmore (9-6) and 73 in a win over Hobart (6-9) this past week. With big conference games against Clarkson (10-6) and St. Lawrence (11-3) at home this weekend, Hamilton can't wait much longer to turn up the defensive effort.

"We are a good scoring team," commented coach Murphy, "and we will always be able to score. We need to be able to stop teams if we are going to win. It all starts with our defense."

The week started with an important and dominating win over Union last Friday night, 74-57. Hamilton shot 51 percent in the first half in cruising to a 40-29 lead in what coach Murphy called the team's best defensive half of the season. Union did not record its first field goal until almost four minutes into the game, and Hamilton's defensive intensity did not let up the rest of the game. Union answered almost every Hamilton run with a run of their own to keep the game within reach.

The Continentals cooled off in the second half, but they capitalized on trips to the free throw line and blew past Union with eight minutes to go in the game. Union committed 0 team fouls through the first twelve minutes of the half, but Hamilton began driving to the hoops more at that point, and the fouls and free throws allowed Hamilton to build the lead to 20.

Tsakane Ngobeni '07 led the Continentals with 18 points and seven rebounds, and Joe Smith '04 added fifteen points and ten boards. C.J. Cantil '04 chipped in with ten points, five rebounds, and five assists.

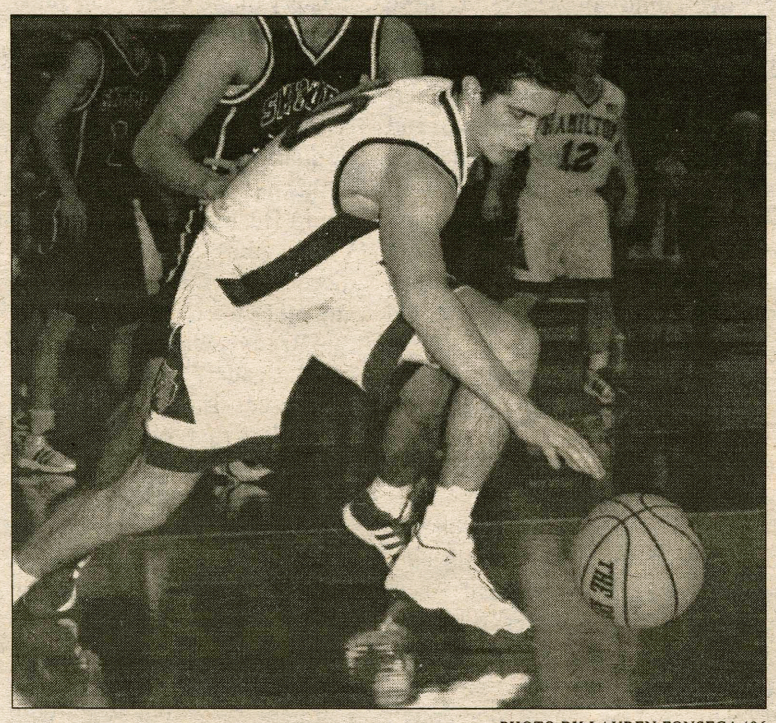


PHOTO BY LAUREN FONSECA '06

Joe Smith (40) grabs the loose ball against Skidmore.

"If we were going to win the league, we knew we needed to win this game," said coach Murphy. "We need to come out and play with emotion, 'cause we're not a dominant team, so we need to play with energy and intensity the whole game if we're going to win. [Union] is a very good team, and they're going to make runs at you, but every time they scored five or six in a row, our kids played harder and came right back and grabbed control again."

Smith passed the 1,000 career point mark at Hamilton with his effort.

On Saturday, January 27, Hamilton took on Skidmore in another important conference game. The Continentals struggled to get out of the blocks in the early going, and despite grabbing the lead by as many as nine points, they could not seem to shake the Thoroughbreds. Hamilton led by seven at the half, 37-30, shooting 47 percent from the floor.

Skidmore came out in the second half with more energy than Hamilton and surged into the lead minutes into the half. Hamilton fought back and tried to retake control of the game but every time the lead got to five or seven Skidmore responded with its own run. Both team had chances to win the game in the closing minute, but Hamilton missed a shot at the end of regulation, the game went to overtime tied at 72-72. Greg Leone '04 made one of two free throws just two seconds into overtime, but that was the last Hamilton would see of the lead as they missed three of seven free throws in the extra period. Hamilton had a final chance to send the game to double overtime, but Tim Welchons '05's three point attempt was wide of the mark and Hamilton lost 86-83.

Welchons led Hamilton with a career-high 25 points including six three-pointers. Smith added 21 points and TK had 16 in the losing effort.

Hamilton followed up its loss to Skidmore with a hard-fought win over Hobart. The Continentals had control throughout most of the first half, but could not force Hobart out of the game, and ten first half Continental turnovers contributed to 38 first half points for Hobart. Hamilton led 41-38 at the break with both teams shooting around 51 percent in the first half.

The Continentals stayed in control throughout much of the second half, building the lead to as many as nine before Hobart began to chip away with under four minutes to play. Hamilton held a 72-64 lead with 3:19 remaining when Hobart went on a run to close the gap to 72-71 with 1:02 remaining in the game. Hamilton milked the clock on the next possession and Welchons buried a fade-away jumper as the clock ran down to give Hamilton a 74-71 lead with 40 seconds remaining. Hobart missed a three but put back the offensive rebound to pull within one, and when Cantil missed the front end of a one-and-one at the free throw line, Hobart had a chance to win on a last shot. Mike Manning tried to drive past Cantil who held his ground and forced a missed shot. The rebound went to the floor and time expired as the referees blew their whistles for a jump ball tie-up.

Joe Smith scored a season-high 29 points for the Continentals while grabbing twelve rebounds. TK had a game-high fifteen rebounds, and Greg Leone added sixteen points. Welchons scored nine of his thirteen in the second half.

Hamilton plans to show some new looks on both sides of the ball as they enter the second half of conference play.

"We may play a little more zone defense and some other new looks in the second half because you don't want to show a team the same thing twice in a row," said coach Murphy after the Hobart game. "We're going to have to be better defensively than we've been, and we have been doing okay on the backboards, but we have to do better. That will be the key to this season. We're working hard to get to where we want to be, and we'll get there eventually."

Hamilton returns to play at home this weekend against conference leader Clarkson, and St. Lawrence on Friday and Saturday. Friday's tip will be at 8 p.m. in Field House, Saturday's game at 4 p.m.

PHOTO BY LAUREN FONSECA '06

Brandon Holtslag hits the floor fighting for a loose ball against UCAA rival Union last Friday.

Men's hockey beats Elmira in overtime, 6-5

by Andrew DeCastro '05
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday night, the Continentals traveled across the state to play the Soaring Eagles of Elmira College. The Continentals walked into the hostile environment and upset the Soaring Eagles in overtime. Jeff Corey became a hero overnight, netting the game winner and giving him a hat trick for the evening. Gas Katsuras '06 continues to provide offense for the Conts, sniping a goal and getting three assists in the winning effort. Vinny Rinaldi '07 continues to play solid hockey after coming off an injury, getting two goals and an assist. Robbie Macneil '05 stopped thirty-three shots, never allowing the Soaring Eagles to gain any momentum at their our barn.

Elmira, always around the top fifteen in Division three play, couldn't match the Continentals intensity down the stretch. Hamilton, always priding itself in its conditioning, wore down Elmira and kept up with the Soaring Eagles throughout the entire game.

Prior to the game against Elmira, however, the Continentals had difficulty is creating scoring chances against the top teams around the area. Captain Jeff Corey '04 put the Continentals' offensive explosion into perspective.

"When we completely buy into our systems we experience a lot of success. Then it is just a matter of us working these systems to our advantage night in and night out for all sixty minutes of the game."

Now that the Continentals have completed two-thirds of the season, team defense will continue to be a major focus over the remaining weeks. A strong focus in the neutral and defensive zone and having success in those areas will translate into offensive opportunities and subsequently will be the difference in determining the success of the team during the remainder of the season.

"To finish our the season with a NESCAC championship, which is our primary goal, we are stressing complete team discipline. Very little separates the great teams from the good teams. We believe discipline in all areas of the game can allow us to take the game over and will be the difference for us down the stretch," Corey added.

This weekend the Conts finally have a home weekend for the student body to show their support. Friday night, Hamilton Faces tenth-ranked New England College. With strong goaltending and solid defensive play, Hamilton can easily utilize their team speed and crash to the net with the powerful forwards. Staying within the systems implemented, and staying in each players respective lane on forechecking will be a key factor. On Saturday the Conts face a much improved St. Anselm's team that has enjoyed much production from their freshman and sophomore class. Jeff Corey had some final words of inspiration for this weekend.

"If we play with the work ethic we've demonstrated over the last few weeks for 60 minutes, if we win every battle, and get to every loose puck, and if we finish our checks in every zone, we should have no problem in disposing of the competition this weekend."